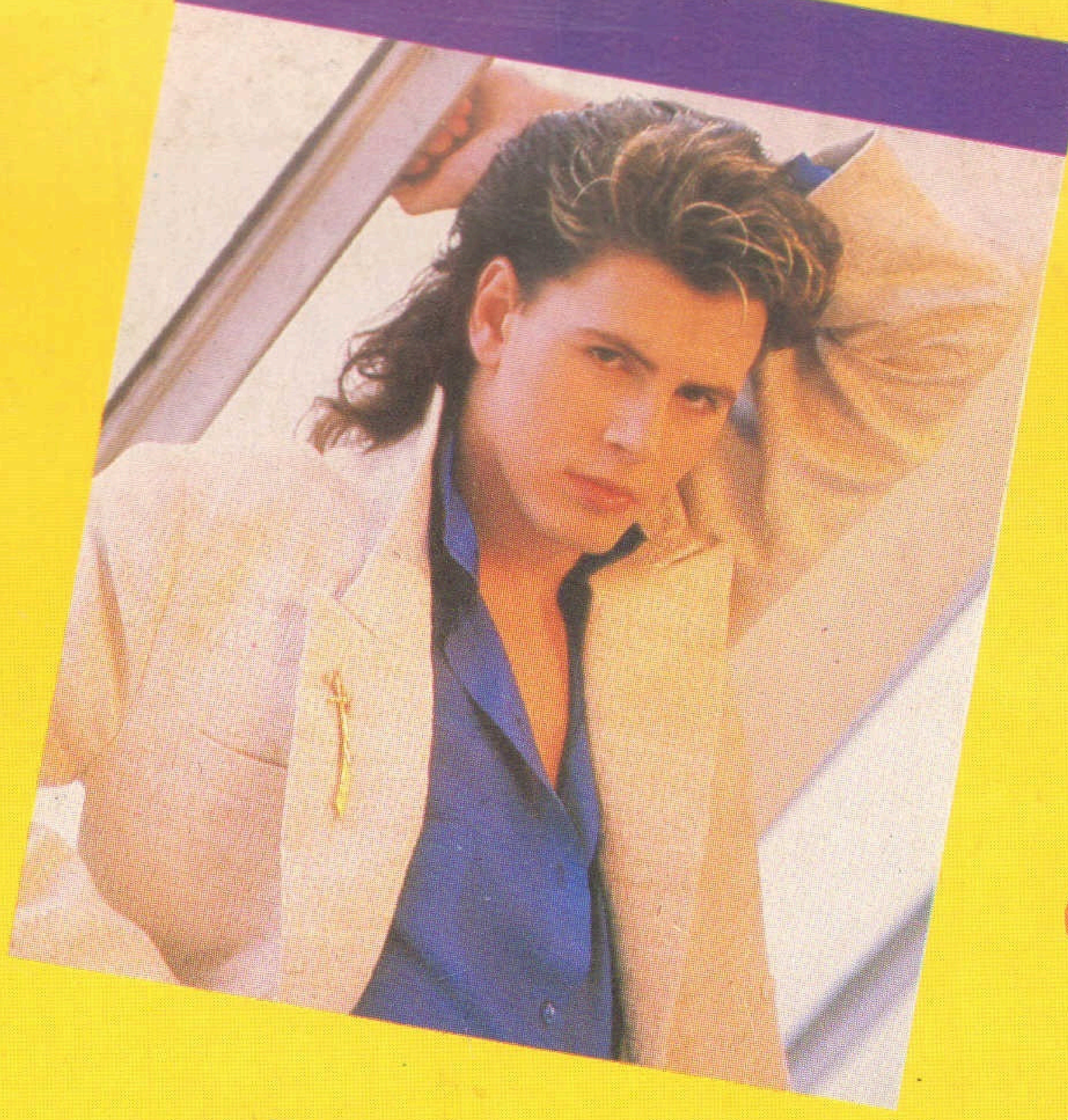
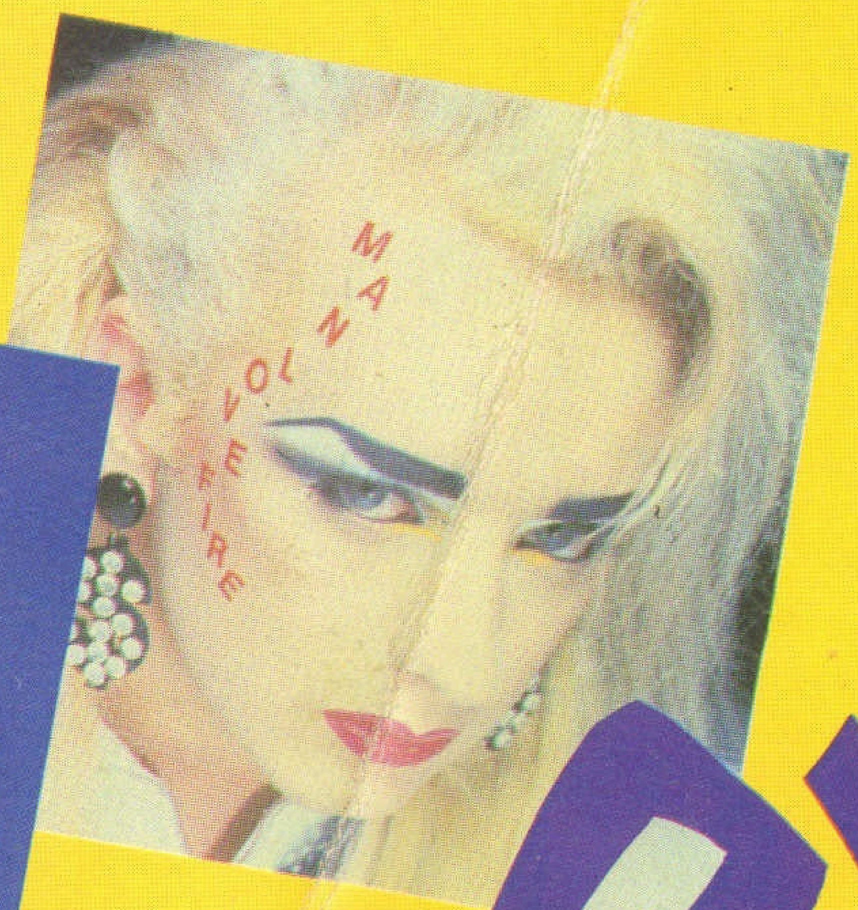
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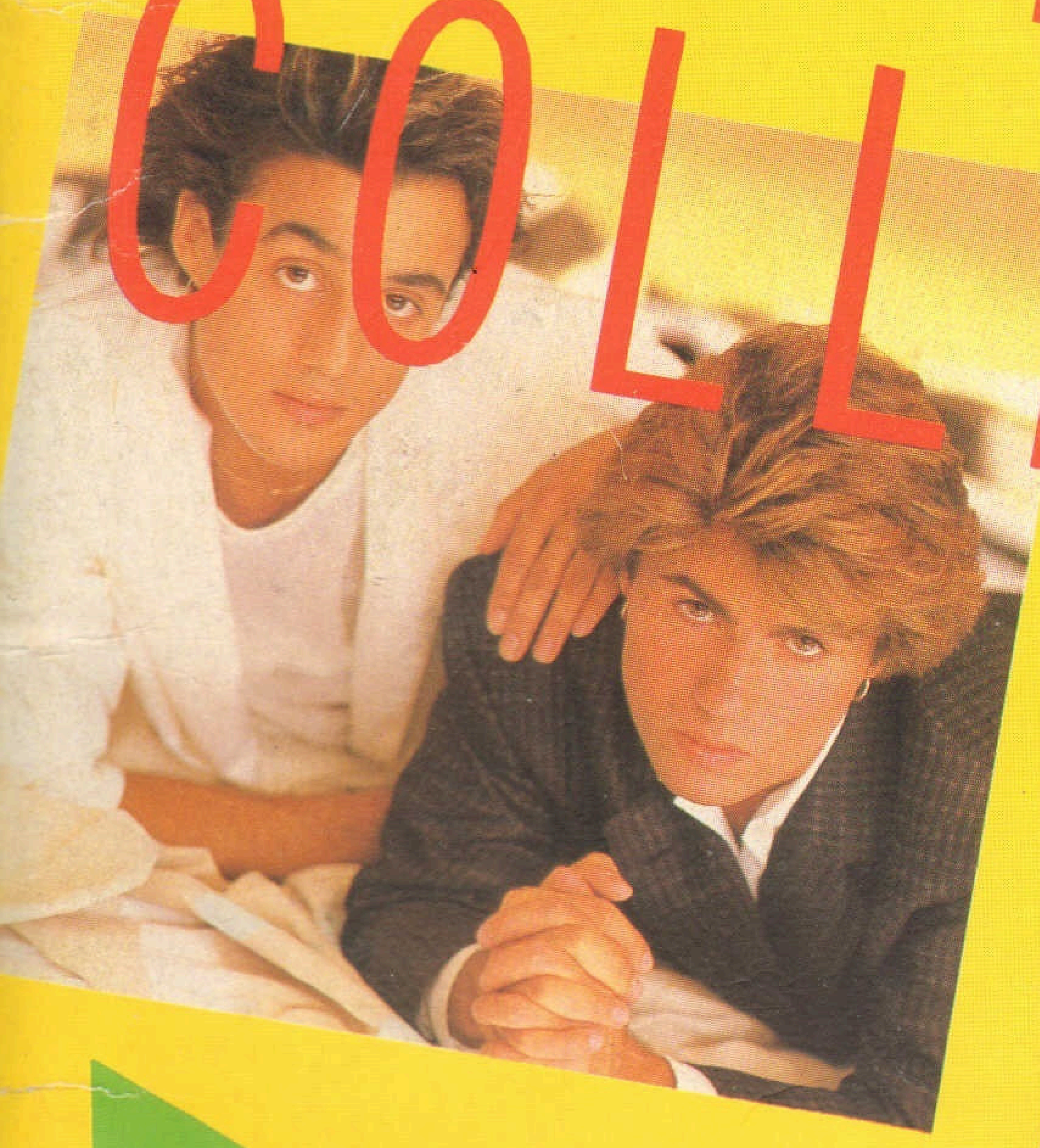








# Smash HITS COLLECTION 85







FIGURINE PANINI

# THE Smash HITS COLLECTION 85

Welcome to The Smash Hits Collection 85. It's even better than last years and another information-packed 32-page album that builds into an exclusive picture gallery of all this years most famous faces in pop music.

Collecting the stickers is simple and shouldn't cost you much (especially if you swop any spare ones with friends). There's 144 stickers in all and most good newsagents stock them. They come in packs of five, 20p per pack. And if you've still got a few holes in your collection, you can always write to Minicards and order up the stickers you need. Full details on the inside of the back page.

THE SMASH HITS COLLECTION 85

**STICK WITH IT!**

# Contents



All photos from London Features International except where stated.



# Wham!

WHAM! are the brainchild of George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley who, after forming ska band The Executives, got a deal on the strength of a £20 demo of ''Wham! Rap'' in 1982. Ignored on first release, its follow-up ''Young Guns (Go For It)'' shot into the Top Ten after a lucky break on *Top of The Pops*, closely followed by a remodelled version of their first single.

They now disown the fake teenage rebellion of ''Bad Boys'' – ''pathetic, we can't believe how many people bought that image'' – though it too was a hit anyway. Subsequently they ditched the ill-fitting macho leather look for the cocktail sophistication of ''Club Tropicana'' and the ''Fantastic'' LP. They then left their record company, Innervision, amid legal wrangles, but not before their suggestive antics with shuttlecocks on stage had irritated many, much to Wham!'s glee.

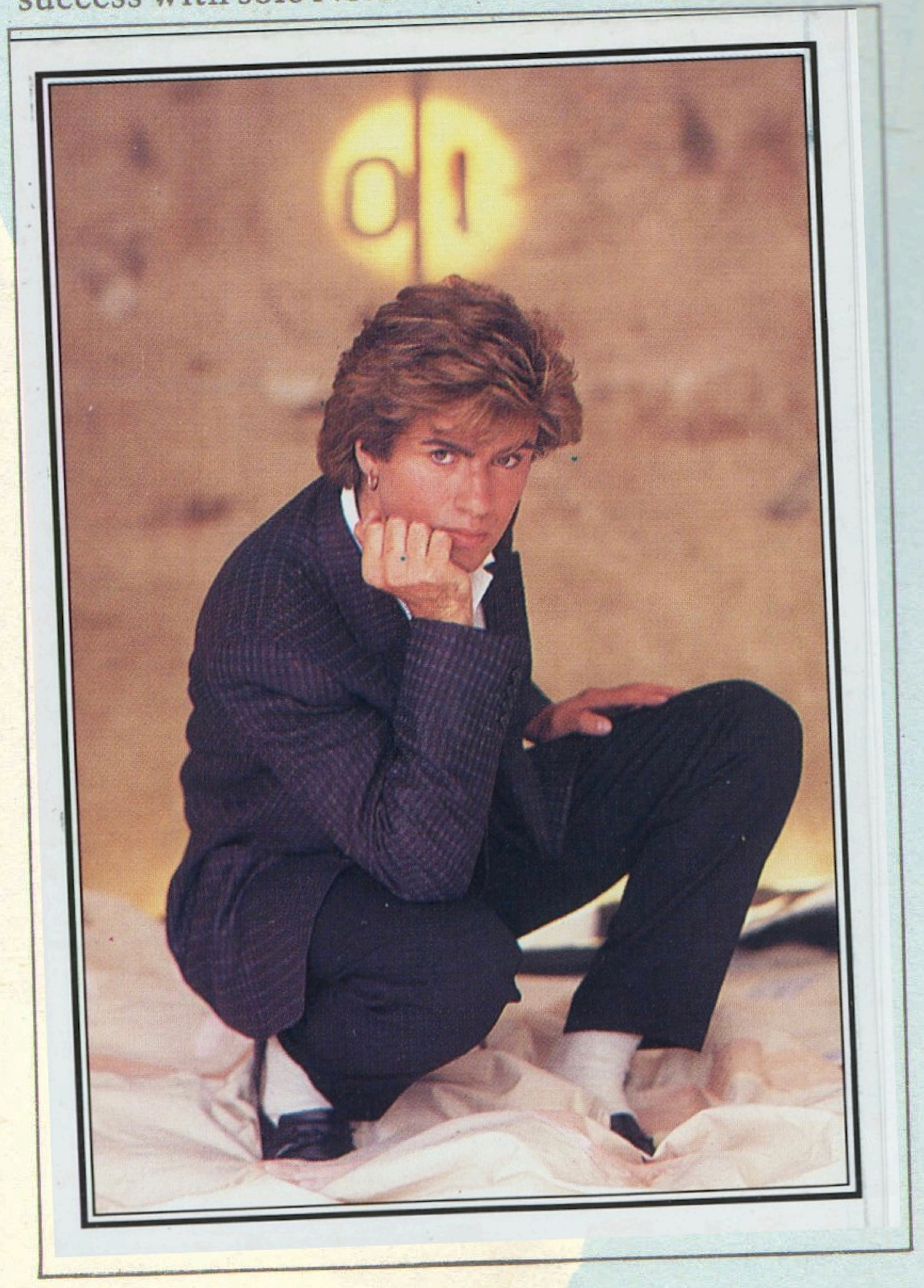
After a long break, they re-emerged with longer hair, darker tans and even whiter smiles, scoring their first No.1 with ''Wake Me Up Before You Go Go''. The next song, ''Careless Whisper'', was released as a George Michael solo single – ''Wham! singles aren't about depression, broken hearts . . . *they're pop singles with energy*,'' George explained. With it he became the first person ever to have topped the charts both as a member of a band and as a solo artist in the same year.

Motown pastiche ''Freedom'' repeated the success and only the Band Aid record (featuring George in any case) kept their Christmas single ''Last Christmas'' (written the previous February ) from making it four in a row. They capped their ridiculously successful year with a hit album modestly entitled ''Make It Big''.

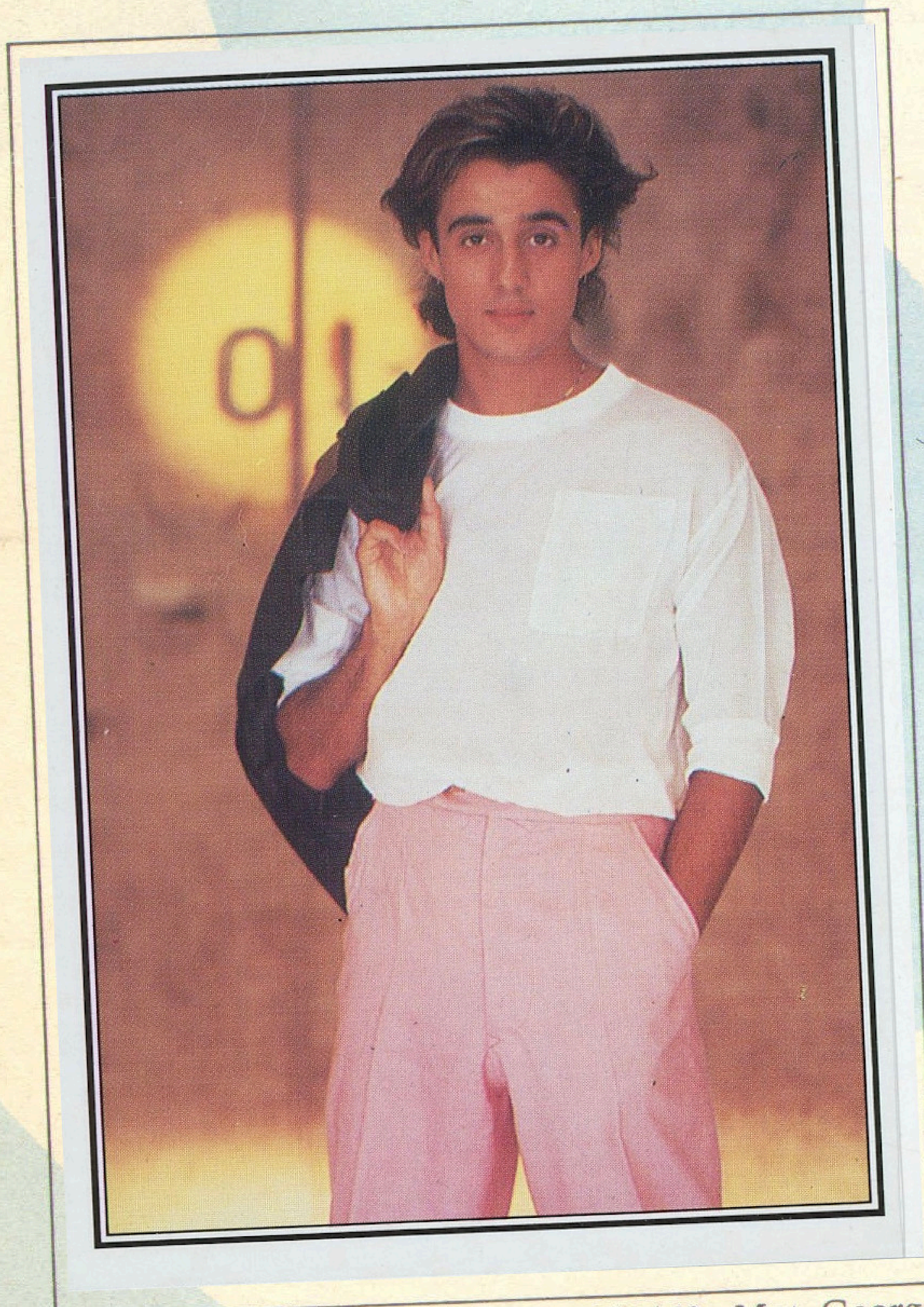
These days even the critics who moaned about Wham!'s obvious ambition and blatant commercialism are beginning to come round, acknowledging George as a gifted songwriter and producer, and actually admiring the duo for their honesty. Though they still get a lot of stick for things like miming at a miners' benefit, they *did* turn out and also donated their ''Last Christmas'' royalties to Ethiopia.

Wham! say they see no point in making records that don't sell. According to Andrew, ''Number One records are good records''. Few can work so carefully and with such dedication towards being massive pop stars; whether you love them or loathe them, Wham! are going to be around for a very long time.

GEORGE MICHAEL: born George Michael Panos 25/6/63. Lives with parents in outskirts of London – Cypriot father is successful restaurant owner. (George once sacked for serving customers wrong drinks.) Formed Wham! after 'A' Levels with schoolfriend Andrew Ridgeley. Recognised as driving force and musical brain behind group. Capped huge success with solo No.1 ''Careless Whisper''.

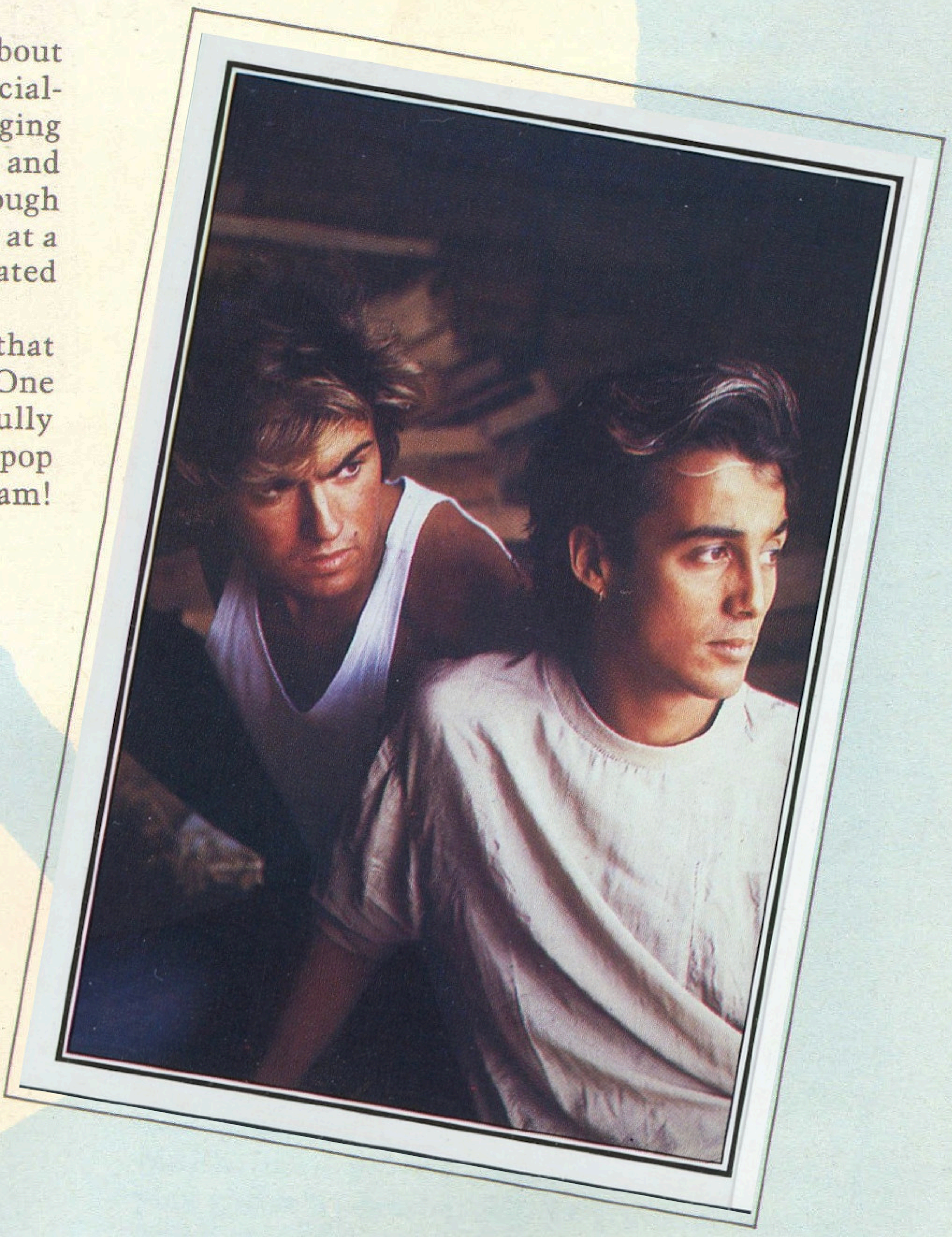


## George Michael



## Andrew Ridgeley

ANDREW RIDGELEY: born 26/1/63. Met George Michael at North London comprehensive and introduced him to fashion and style. Used to be inseparable nightclubbing soul boys together. Except for some simple guitar playing, Andrew's role in Wham! seems to be as someone for George to bounce ideas off. In 1984 joined growing list of stars who've had nose jobs.








# Frankie Goes To Hollywood

FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD: Holly, Paul, Pedro, Nasher and Mark had all played in bands in their home town of Liverpool before forming Frankie Goes To Hollywood in 1982. The name was taken from an old American movie magazine headline about Frank Sinatra's move from Las Vegas to Los Angeles. An appearance on *The Tube* brought them to the attention of master producer Trevor Horn who signed them to his new Zang Tumb Tuum label. Their first single, ''Relax'', was released in 1983. An energetic piece of dance music with cheeky lyrics, it took three months to get into the charts before the BBC banned it and it shot to No.1, even returning to No.2 weeks later.

The band comprises two openly gay vocalists and three Liverpool scallies who spend their free time chasing girls. They have a reputation for being controversial.

Heavily and outrageously marketed by ZTT, their ''Frankie Say'' T-shirts set the fashion for summer 1984. ''Makes Wham! and Spandau look completely soft'' was the slogan that accompanied the second single ''Two Tribes''. Helped by another ''made-to-be banned'' video, it also made No.1 as did ''The Power Of Love'', while ''Relax'' itself stayed in the Top 100 for an amazing fifty weeks. The double album ''Welcome To The Pleasure Dome'', however, proved something of a disappointment.

Definitely the band of 1984, if only for the annoyance and controversy stirred up.



## Holly

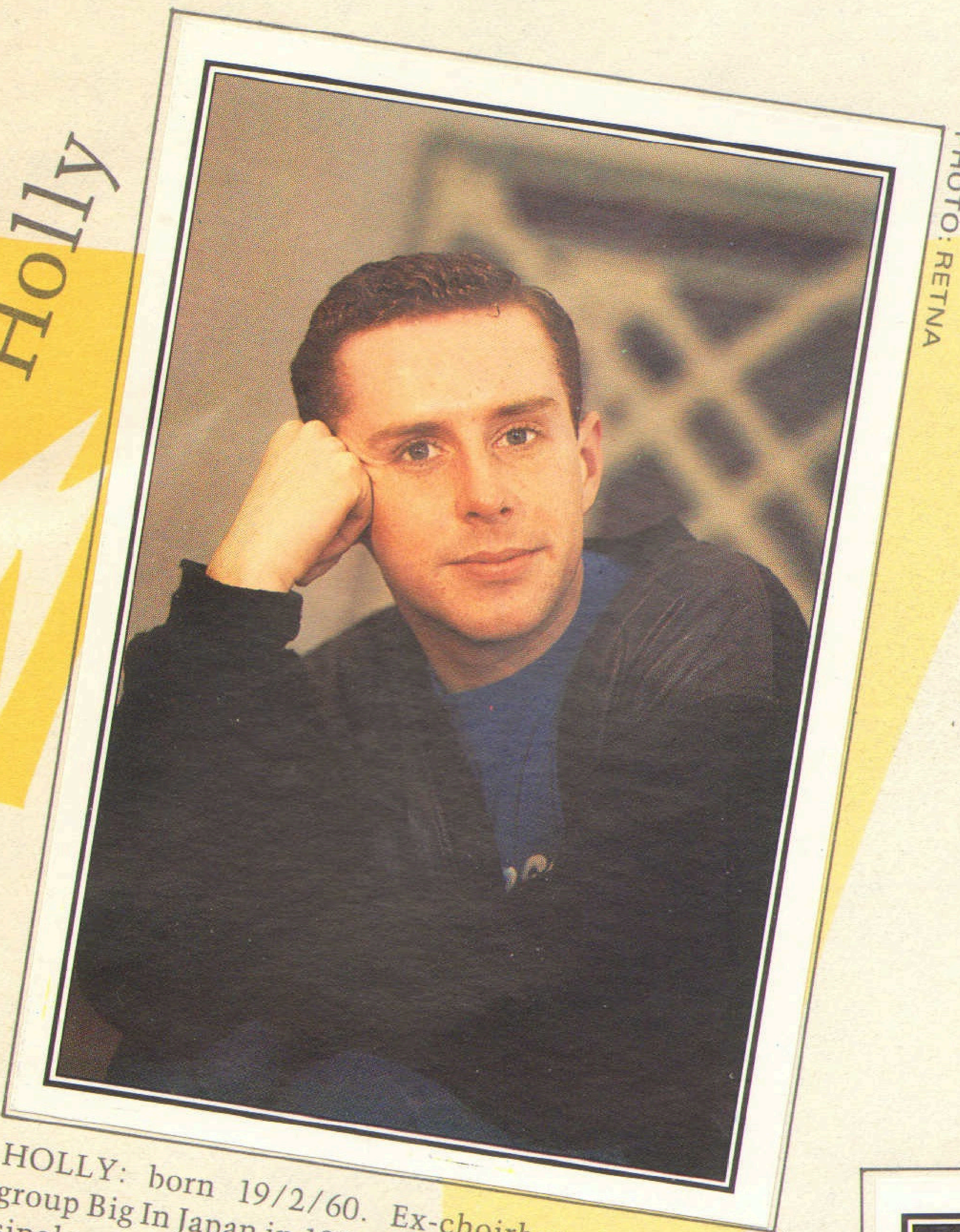
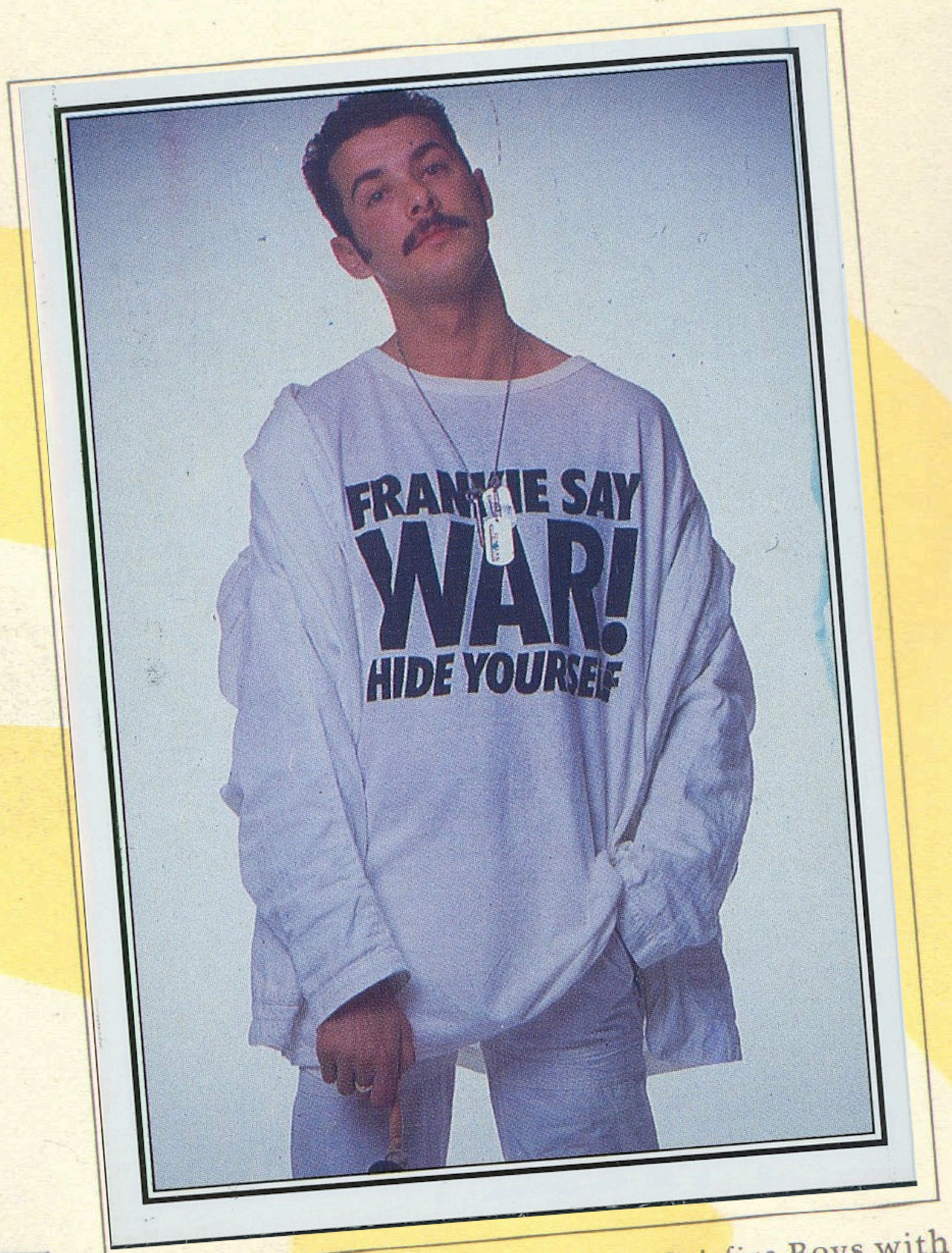


PHOTO: RETNA

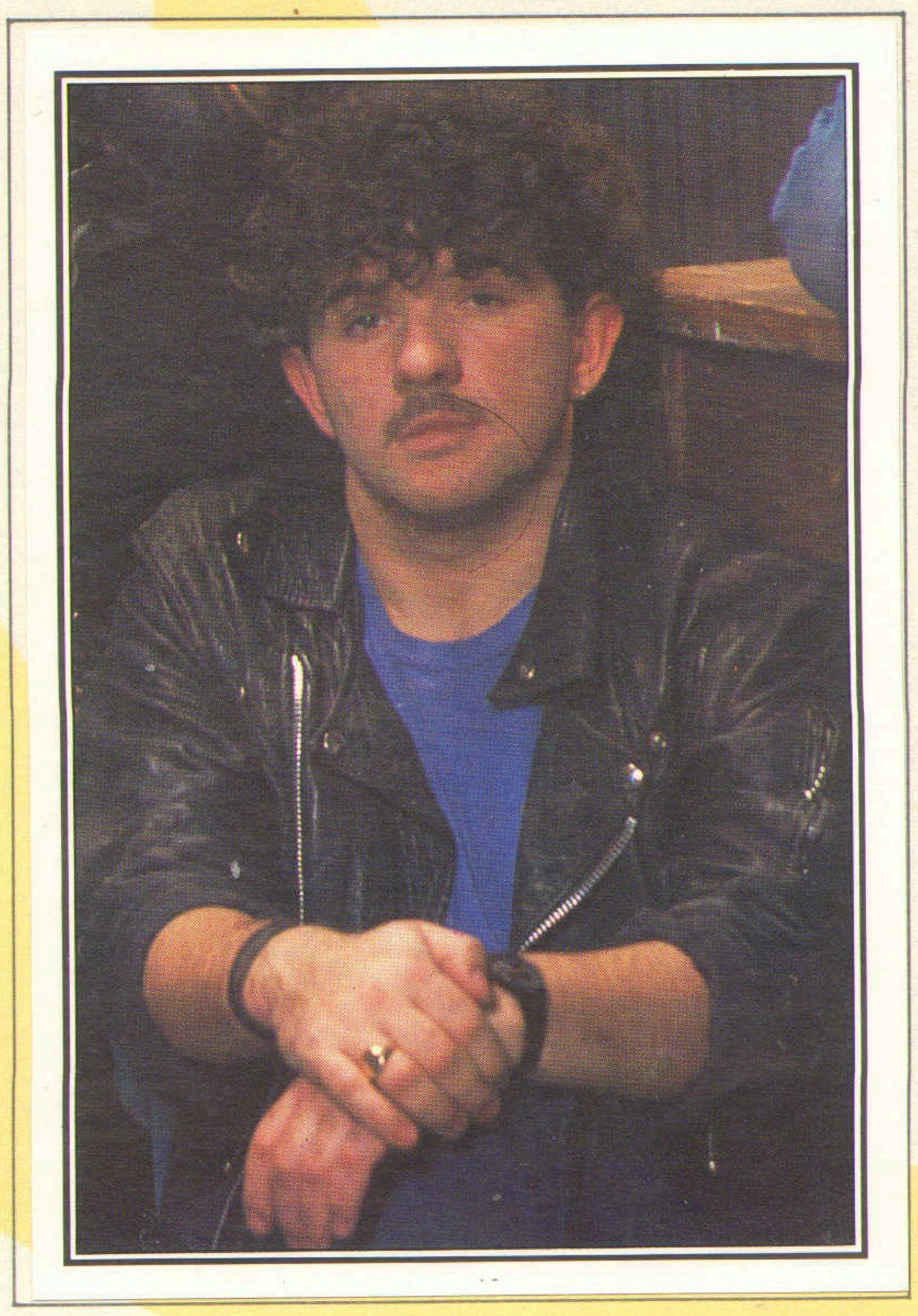
HOLLY: born 19/2/60. Ex-choirboy. Joined first group Big In Japan in 1976 and later recorded two solo singles – ''Yankee Rose'' and ''Hobo Joe''. Has always been cheerfully extrovert. Used to wear social security number on side of his head. ''I used to shave me head and paint it red and green. People wrote to the *Liverpool Echo* saying 'who's this Martian walking round town?' ''.

## Paul




PAUL: born 8/12/59. Formerly in Spitfire Boys with Budgie and Pete Wylie. Left to become a dancer. Met Holly in taxi home from Liverpool club. Formerly at art college, used to make clothes, including skirt for Holly. Once shared a flat with Pete Burns of Dead Or Alive. Has rings through his nipples and ace of hearts tattooed on left arm. ''I'm not cuddly all the time . . .''

## Pedro



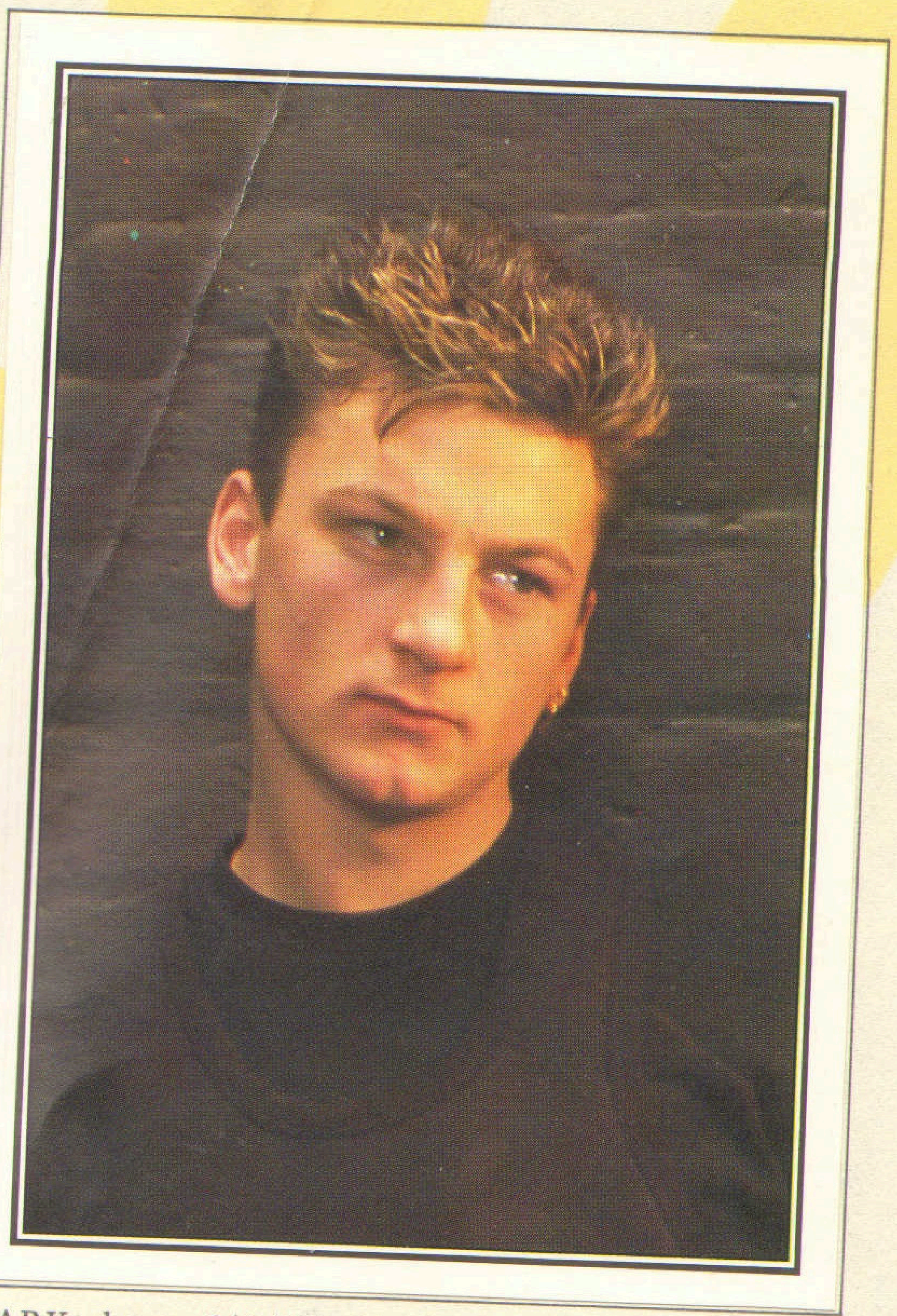
PEDRO: born Peter Gill 8/3/60. Used to be wood machinist but made redundant. Now shares London flat with Mark and Nasher where they spend most of their time. Now drummer but earlier tried to learn guitar ''but my hands were too little so after six months I went on to bashing things''. The worrier of the group, is also interested in vintage cars.

## Nasher

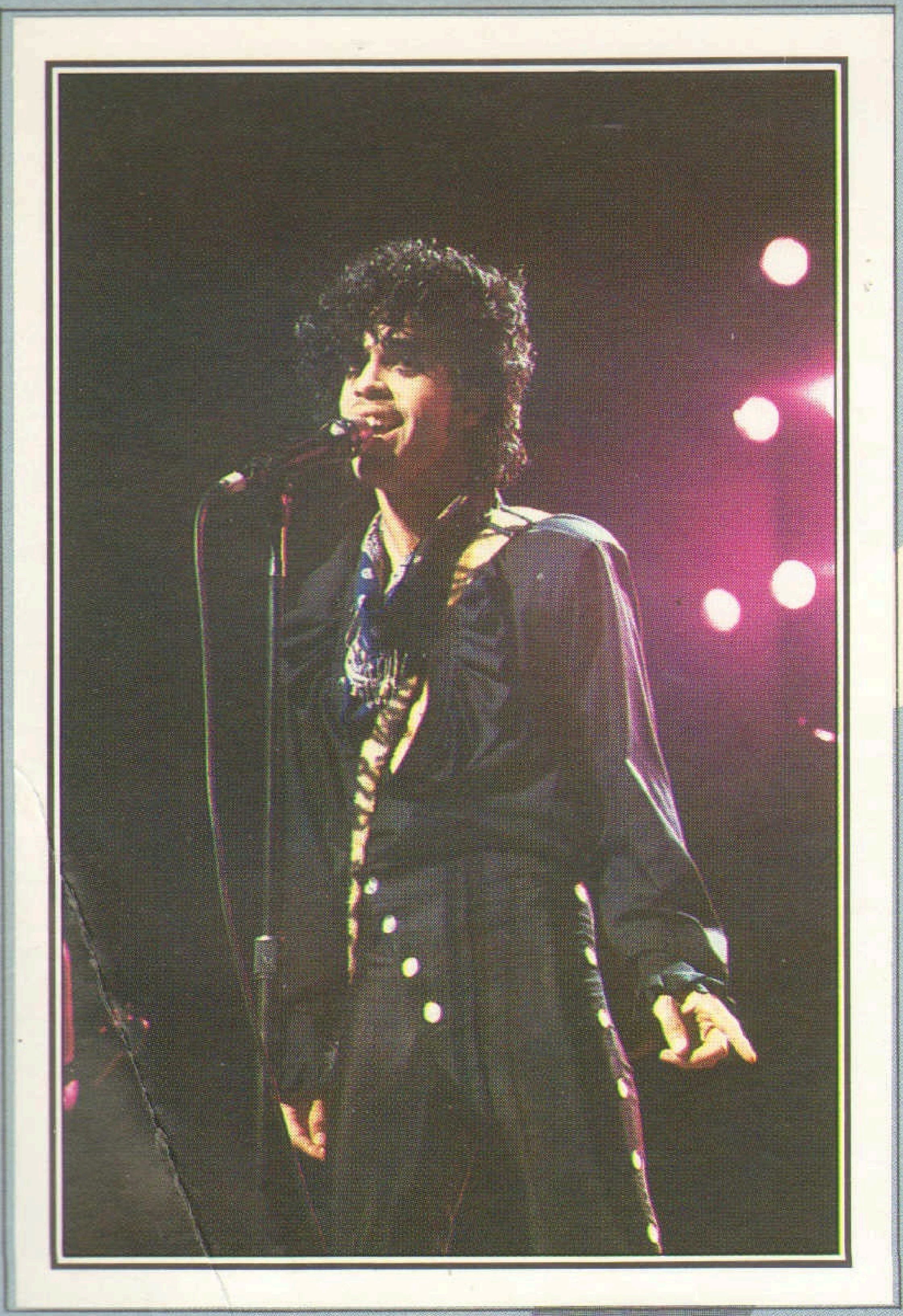


NASHER: born Brian Nash 20/5/63 . Formerly electrician after being chucked out of school for irregular attendance. Owns computer and stores girls' phone numbers on it. ''Life is one big continuous party!'' Likes Black Sabbath and reads a lot, strangely enough. In favour of outlawing guns for the police.

## Mark



MARK: born 6/1/64. Nasher's cousin. Taught to play guitar by brother Jed, ex-group member. Lists building model cars and drinking Jack Daniels as his hobbies, and Bugs Bunny, Indiana Jones and Beethoven among his heroes. Like rest of ''The Lads'', likes Pink Floyd a lot. When asked what he'd do during the four minute warning, replied, ''I'd stick on the 8 minute version of 'Two Tribes'.''



## Prince

PRINCE: born 7/6/60 in Minneapolis, U.S.A. Full name Prince Nelson Rogers. Son of jazz band leader, and fronted first band, Champagne, aged 12. U.S. star due to ambiguous songs and provocative stage show – international superstardom only last year with "Purple Rain" film and soundtrack.

Produces, arranges, composes and performs his music as well as directing proteges, The Time and Vanity 6. Shuns publicity and remains a mystery.

## Madness



PHOTO: RETNA

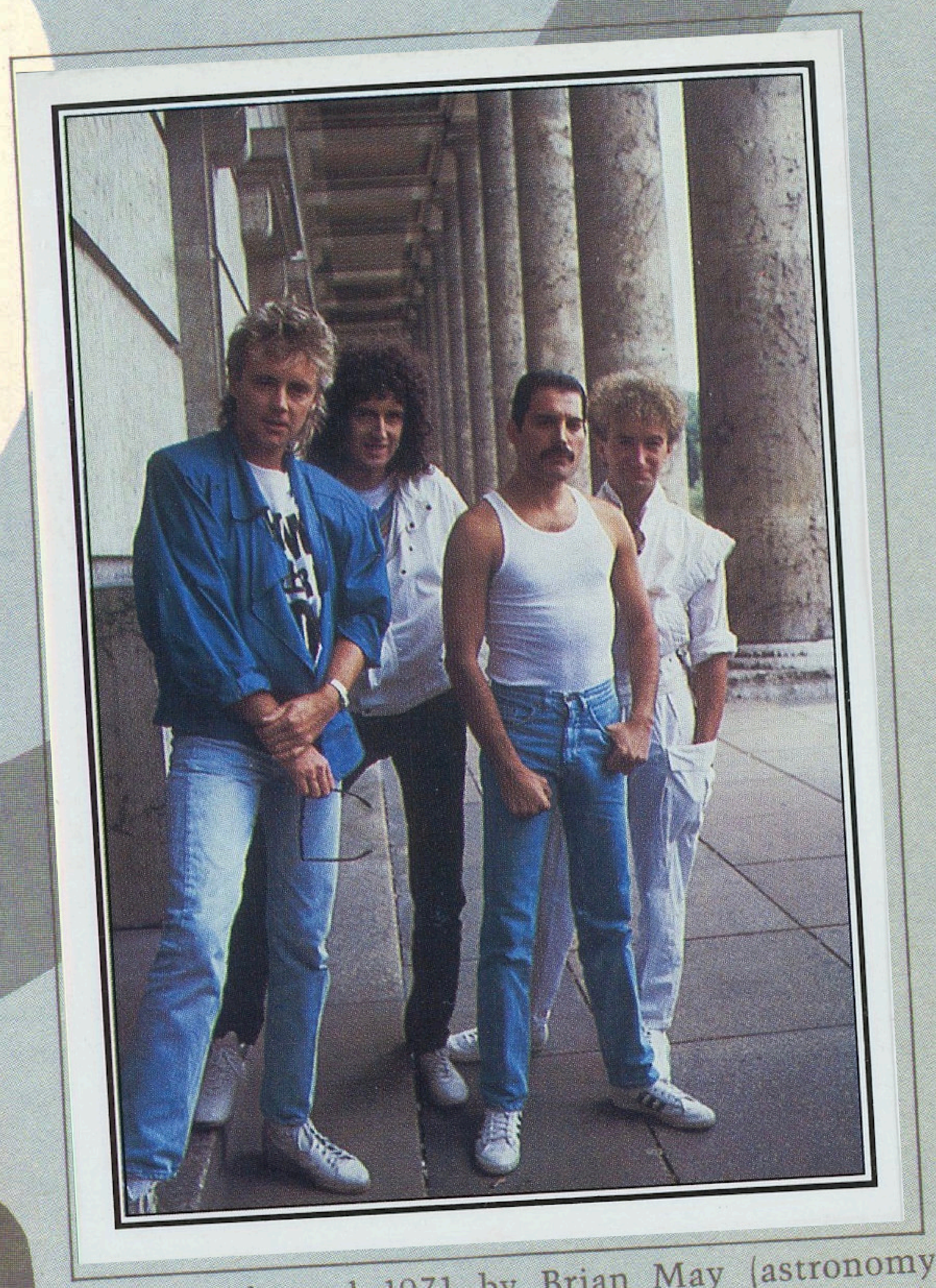
MADNESS: first Madness gig 5/4/79. Name taken from old Prince Buster song. Previously called North London Invaders. Immediate success as part of 2-Tone ska craze. "The Prince" first of 19 consecutive British Top 20 hits. Toned down nutty image and reduced output after departure of musical leader, pianist Mike Barson, to live with wife in Holland. Have just set up own Zarjazz label.

## Divine



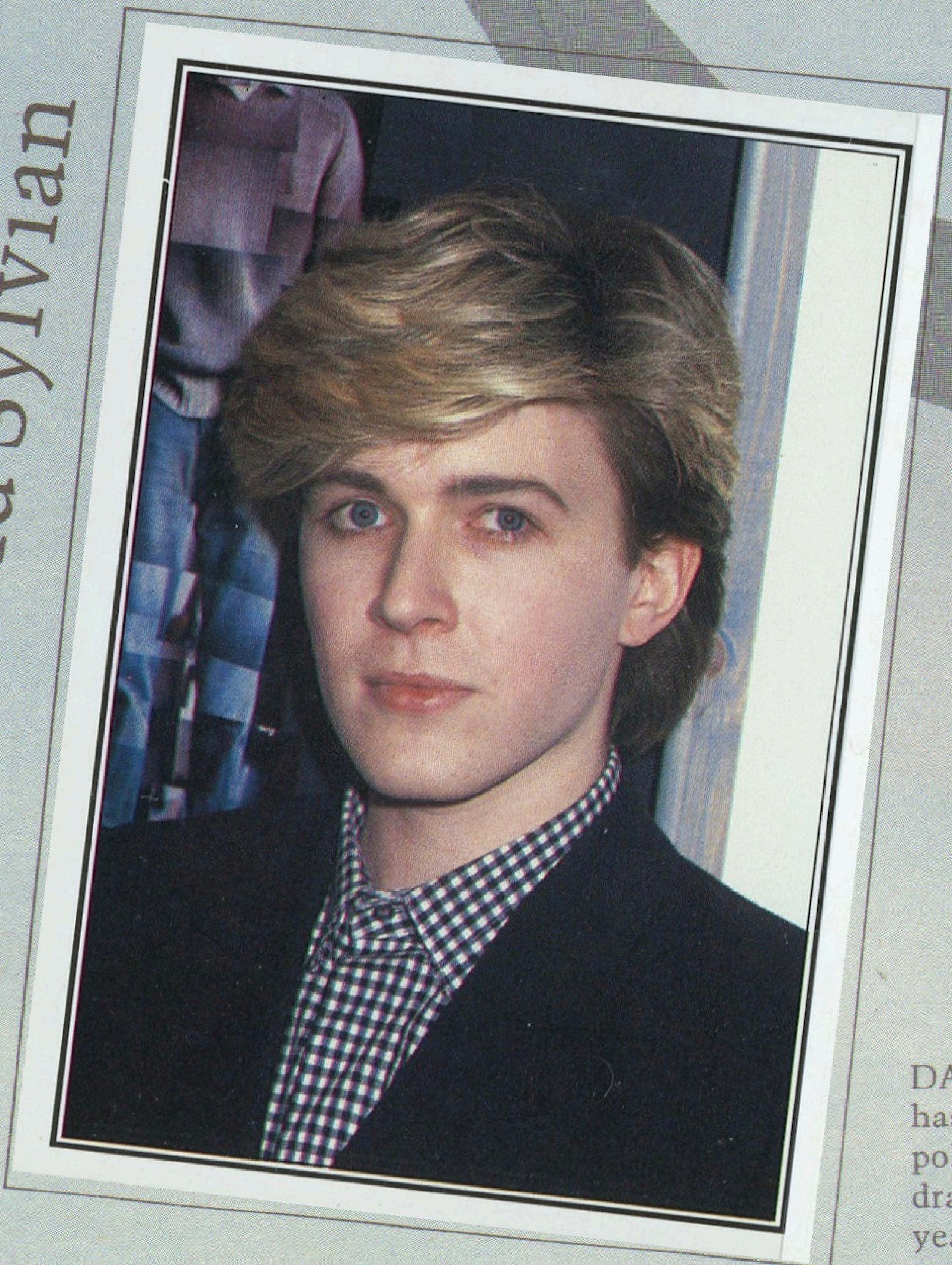
DIVINE: born in the USA, Divine (real name *possibly* Harris Milstead) is best known for outrageously camp hi-energy records like "You Think You're A Man". A female impersonator for over 20 years and a self-confessed "cartoon character", he's also starred in some *very* weird films. Modestly aims to be "the richest person in the world".

## Queen



QUEEN: formed 1971 by Brian May (astronomy student), Roger Meddows-Taylor (biology student), John Deacon (electronics student) and Freddie Mercury (born Frederick Bulsara) who advocated blend of heavy rock, progressive complexity and "glam" image. In 1975 "Bohemian Rhapsody" spent nine weeks at No.1 and featured first pop promotional video. Successfully updated themselves in 1984 with synthesised "Radio GaGa".

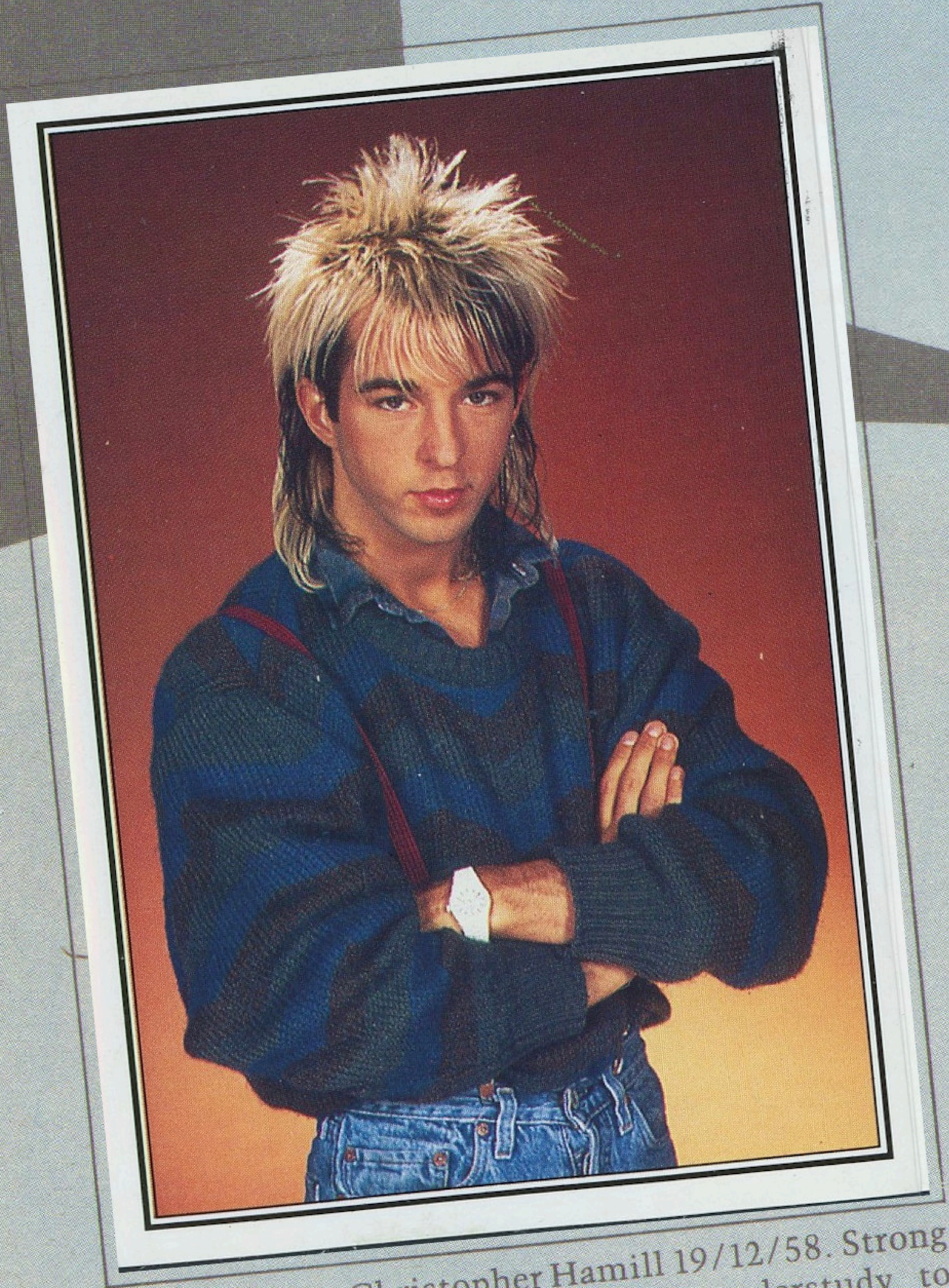
## David Sylvian



DAVID SYLVIAN: born David Batt 23/2/58. Since Japan split in late 1982, has produced one very melancholy LP, "Brilliant Trees", an exhibition of polaroids and a book, "Perspectives". Surrounded by intensely arty aura, drawing comments like "this man sounds like he's been in bed for three years" (Morrissey) but he's actually good-humoured and a lot less mysterious than you'd imagine.

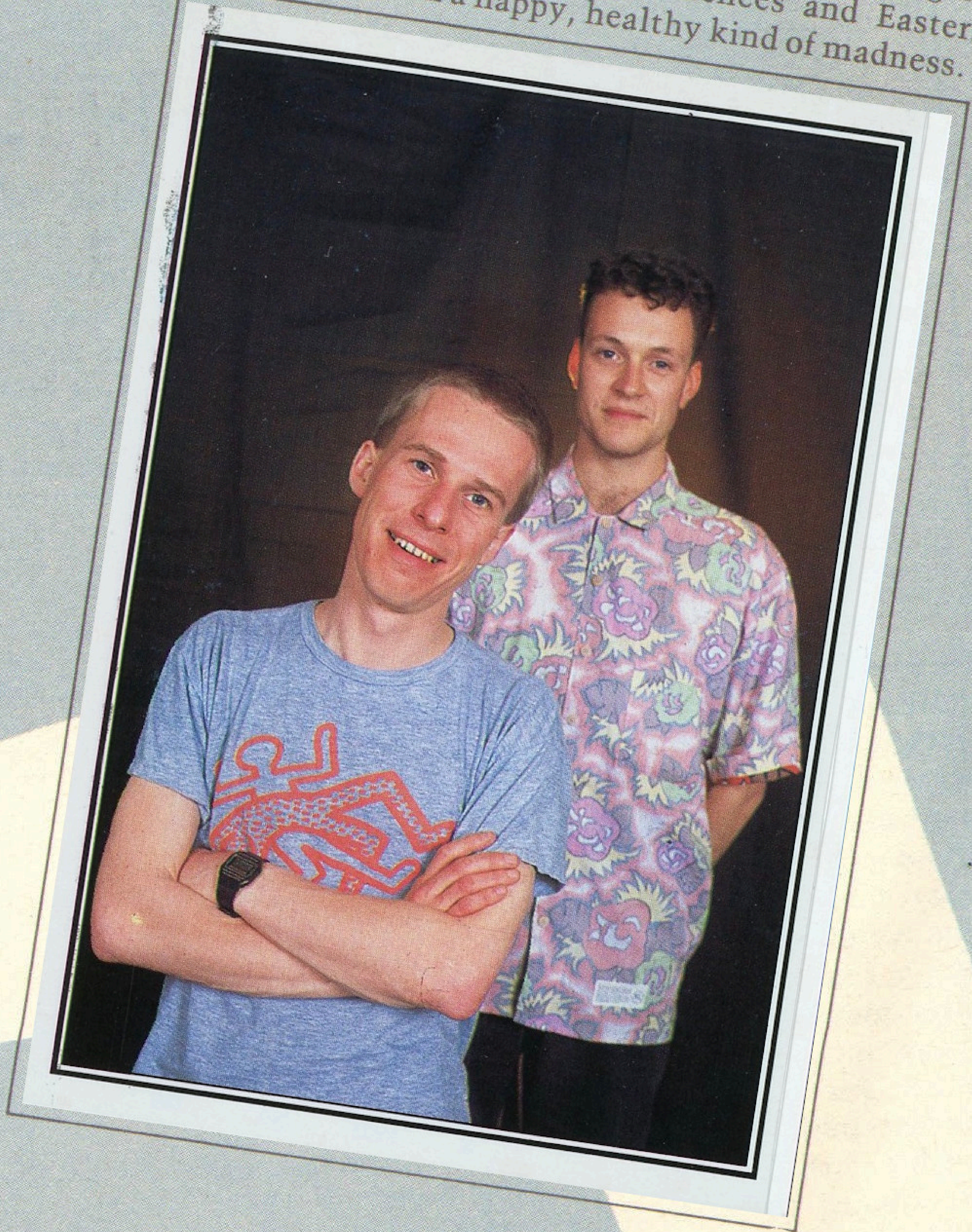
# Blancmange

BLANCMANGE: Neil Arthur (tall, dark and boisterous) from Darwen, Lancs, and Stephen Luscombe (small, fair and quiet) from Uxbridge, London, met at Harrow Art School. Despite not being ''proper'' musicians, formed arty experimental band. First hit with ''Living On The Ceiling'' in 1982. Strong on rhythm, synthesised wide influences and Eastern sounds. Verge on a happy, healthy kind of madness.



LIMAHL: born Christopher Hamill 19/12/58. Strong theatrical bent, started career as understudy to *Aladdin*. Had other minor roles before joining Kajagoogoo in 1982. Sacked a year later amid considerable public acrimony: ''I've been betrayed!'' Since going solo has established lightweight pop/disco style with irregular British success though very popular in Europe.

# Limahl



MADONNA: born Madonna Ciccone 16/8/58 to large Italian family in Detroit, USA. Moved to New York aged 17 primarily as a dancer. Drummed for Breakfast Club Band, played guitar and sang with own band Emmy before getting deal. Has also appeared in films *Visionquest* and *Desperately Seeking Susan*. Ambitious but insecure – ''above all I want to be an all round entertainer. And happy''.

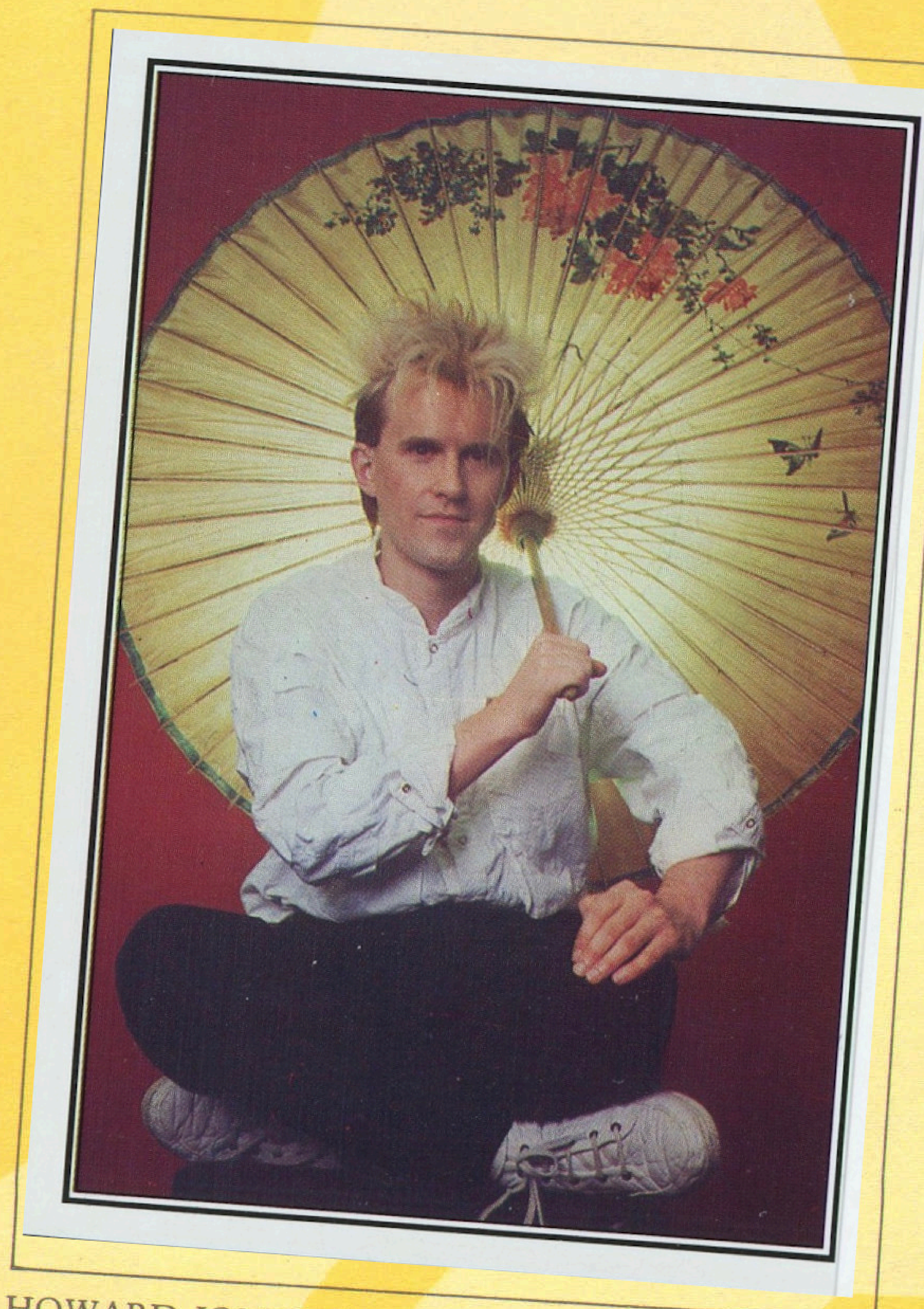


KIM WILDE: born 18/11/60, Kim (daughter of '50s rocker Marty Wilde) has ''never tried to be taken seriously''. She had several hits in the early '80s (mostly written by brother Ricky), but less success lately. However, always image-conscious, she's recently had her look ''re-modelled'' for another push. ''You could be the most talentless bum in the world, but if people want you around, then you're winning.''

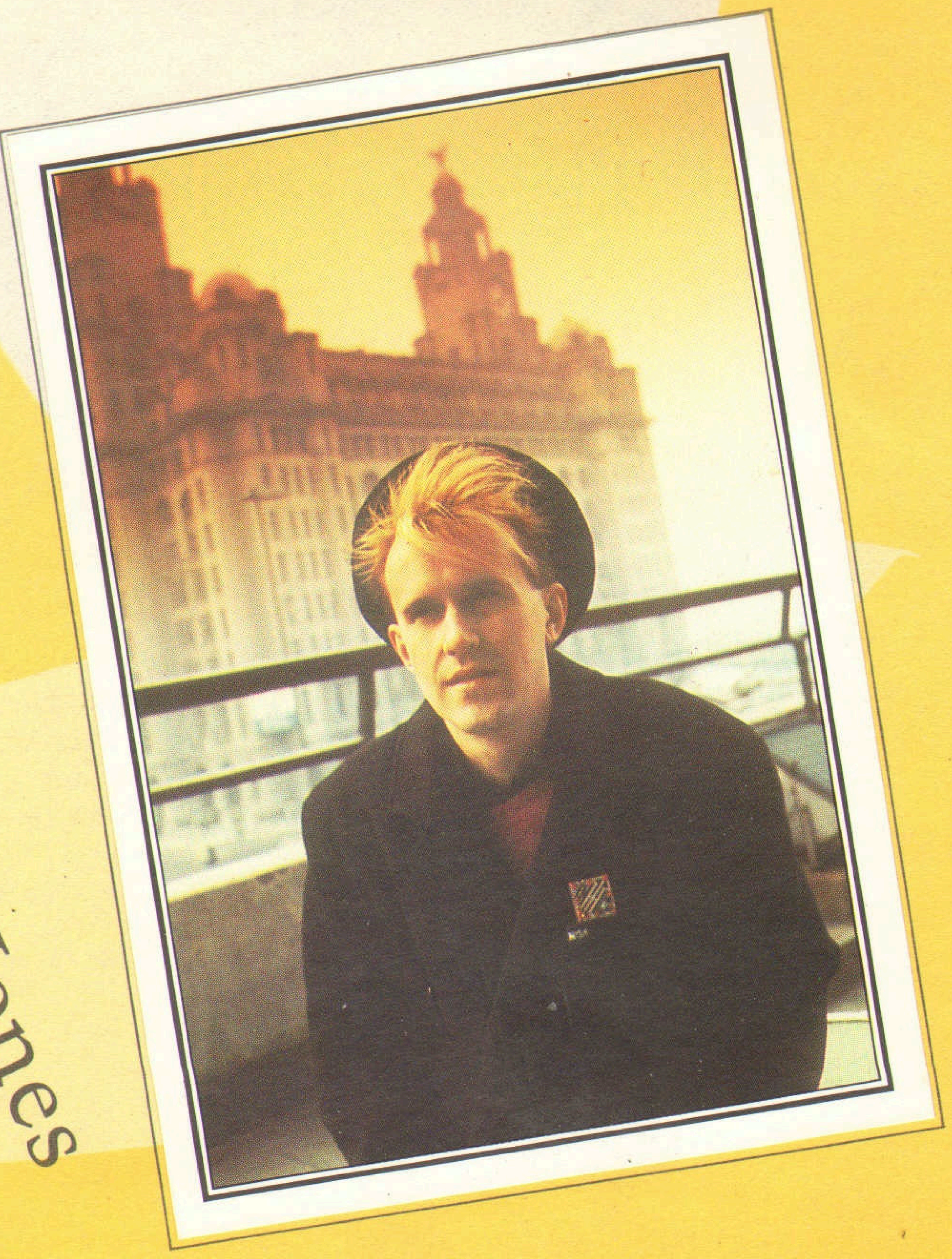
# Kim Wilde



# Madonna



# Howard Jones



HOWARD JONES: born 23/2/55 in Southampton. Eldest of three boys. Family travelled extensively, twice emigrating to Canada where Howard joined his first band. Got ten 'O' Levels and two 'A' Levels at school – "they served me no purpose whatsoever". First record ever bought: "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" by The Beatles. Studied music in Manchester, learnt synthesiser and began to write songs. Whilst playing in pubs in High Wycombe met wife Jan and mime artist Jed Hollie who became his stage partner. Previous jobs include piano teacher, ballpoint assembler and machinist in a clingfilm factory. First hit with first record – "New Song" in 1983. First album, "Human's Lib", released in Spring 1984, entered charts at number one. An idealist opposed to violence, he's also a teetotaller, a vegetarian and an animal lover. Would rather be remembered for his music than looks. If he wasn't a pop star he wouldn't mind being a gardener. "I'm no wild man of rock."

# The Bluebells



THE BLUEBELLS: Robert Hodgens cooked up so many fictitious groups for his late '70s Glasgow fanzine that eventually one of them (The Bluebells) came to life. He and assorted friends – notably the McCluskey brothers – have been the vendors of breezy guitar-driven pop tunes ever since. Recently reshuffled the line-up and changed his name back to Hodgens. Bobby Bluebell? "I shot him."



# Dead Or Alive

DEAD OR ALIVE: after initial impact of singer Pete Burns' bizarre appearance, now have settled line-up of good musicians making strong dance music. Scored overdue hit in early 1984 with KC & Sunshine Band's "That's The Way I Like It". Sharp and witty Burns is much misunderstood – deadpan Liverpudlian humour coming across in print as vicious bitching.



OZZY OSBOURNE: born 3/2/48. Rocketed to success in early '70s with Black Sabbath through combination of raucous apocalyptic heavy metal and his outrageous pranks – setting fire to people etc. Now solo, remains king of heavy metal horror, producing heavy rock spectaculars and occasionally biting heads off bats. "There's nothing I wouldn't do if it's a laugh. Except listen to The Smiths."

## Ozzy Osbourne

## Gary Numan

GARY NUMAN: born Gary Anthony James Webb 8/3/58. Now more interested in flying than music, retired in April 1981 to make ill-fated flight round the world and lost his fortune. Had hair transplant in America. Returned to playing loveless, Ultravox-influenced synthesiser dirges to much reduced but fanatical following. Intensely patriotic, loves guns, "idea" of nuclear war, and his mum and dad.



## Helen Terry

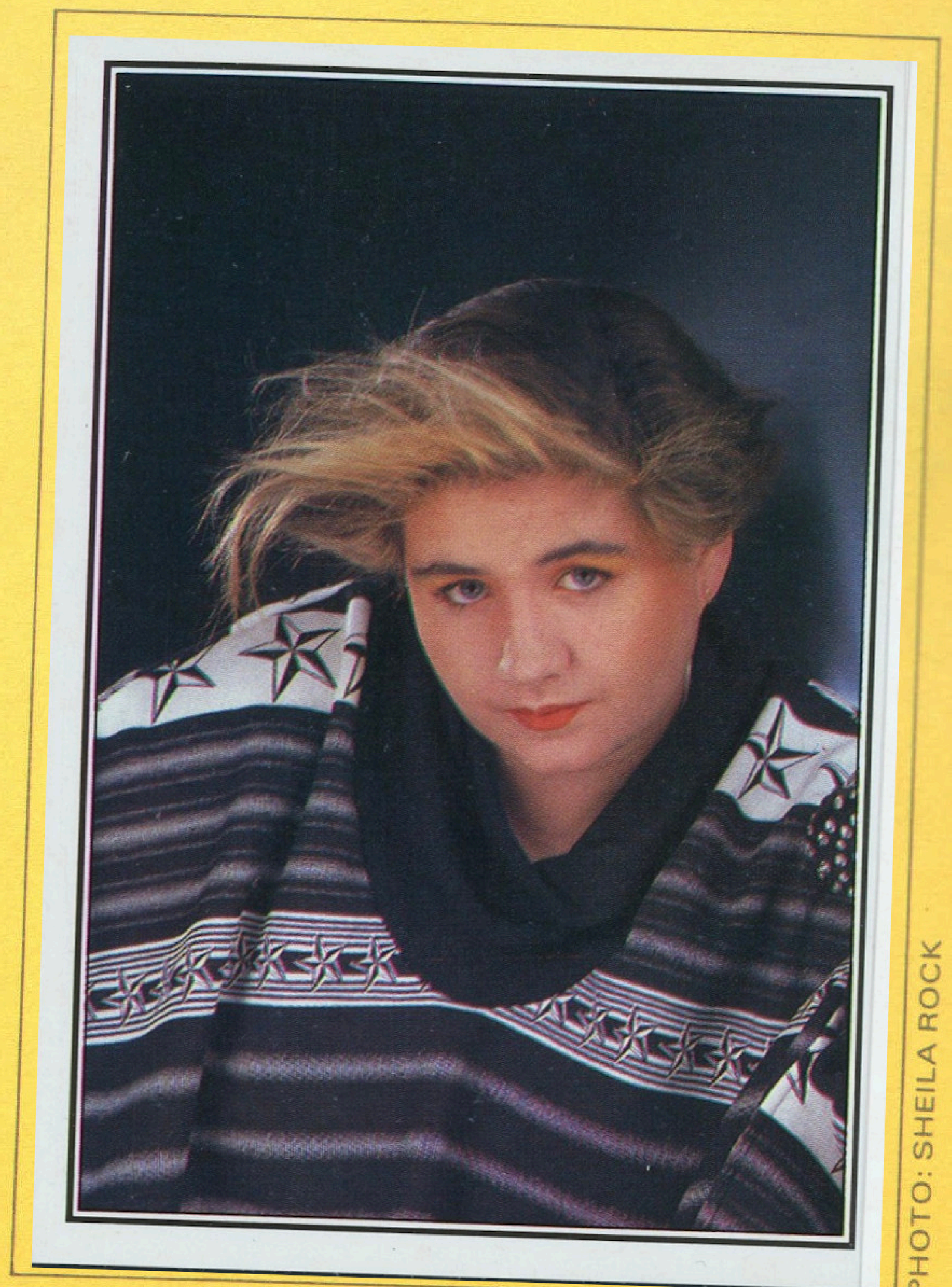
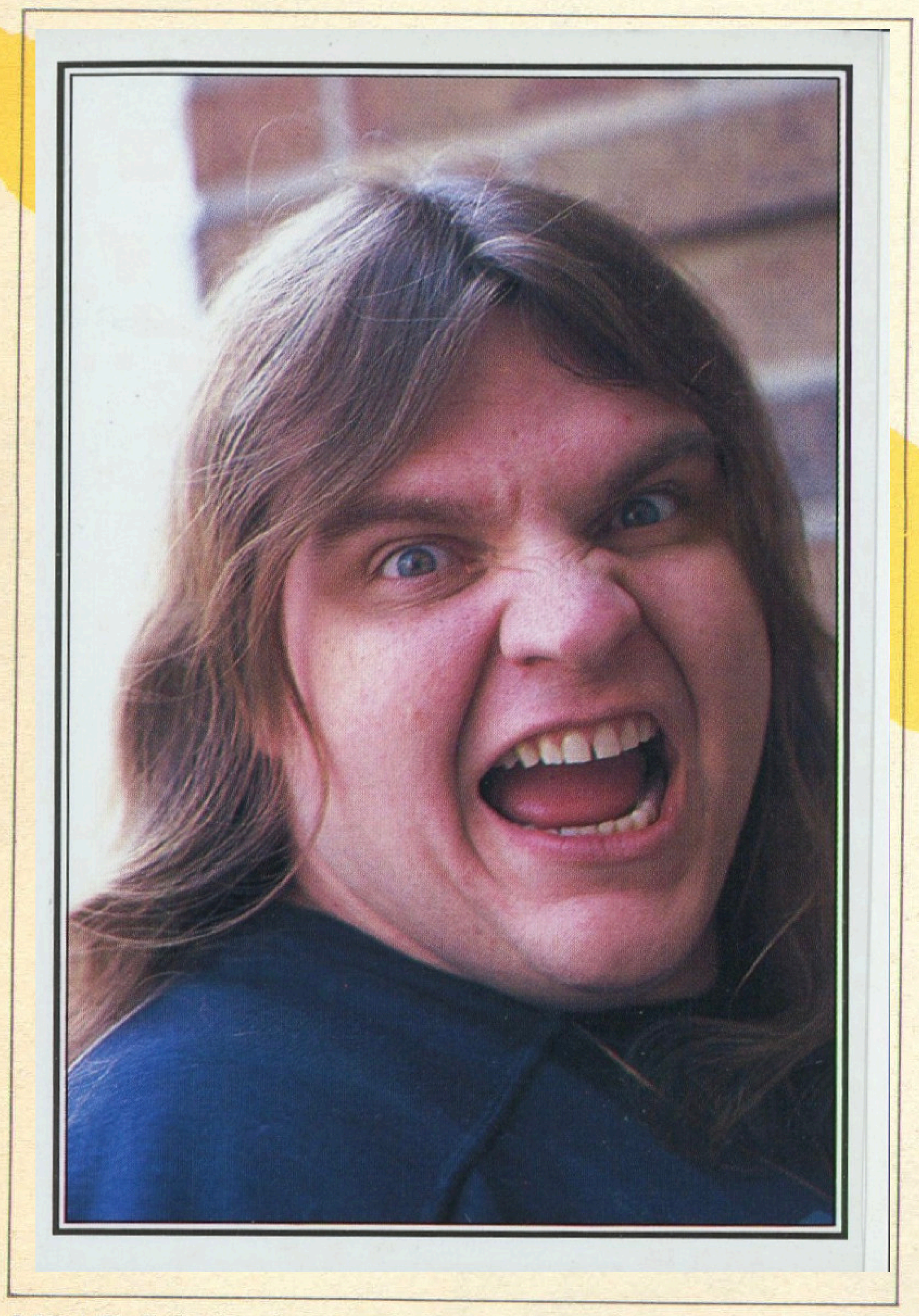


PHOTO: SHEILA ROCK

HELEN TERRY: born 24/5/56. Drifted into singing at 14, eking out living with series of "peculiar singing jobs". In 1982 was working with nude cabaret act The Neo-Naturists – "I wore as many clothes as humanly possible and sang along" – when Boy George spotted her. Searing voice became important ingredient of Culture Club's sound but after friction within band, left in July '84 for solo career.

## Meat Loaf



MEAT LOAF: born 27/9/51 in Texas U.S.A. Ex-American footballer, ex-actor. First album "Bat Out Of Hell", written by Jim Steinman, sold over ten million copies. Recently overhauled his image with "Modern Girl" – though music remains in remarkably similar dramatic vein. Despite saying "I'm big – I can't be little", dieted with noticeable success. Married with two children, Pearl and Amanda. "People relate to me – I don't look like Rod Stewart."

## Marilyn

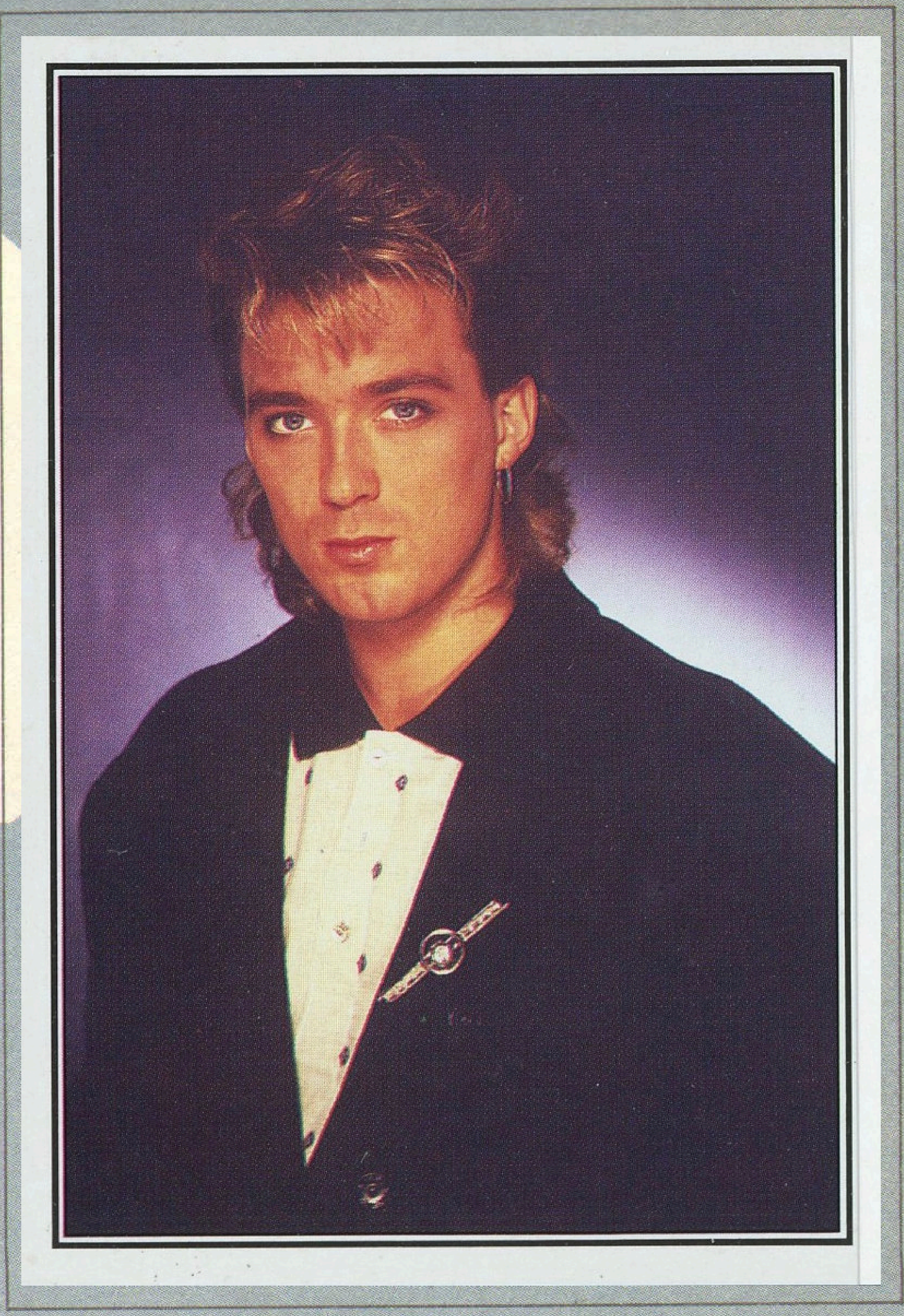


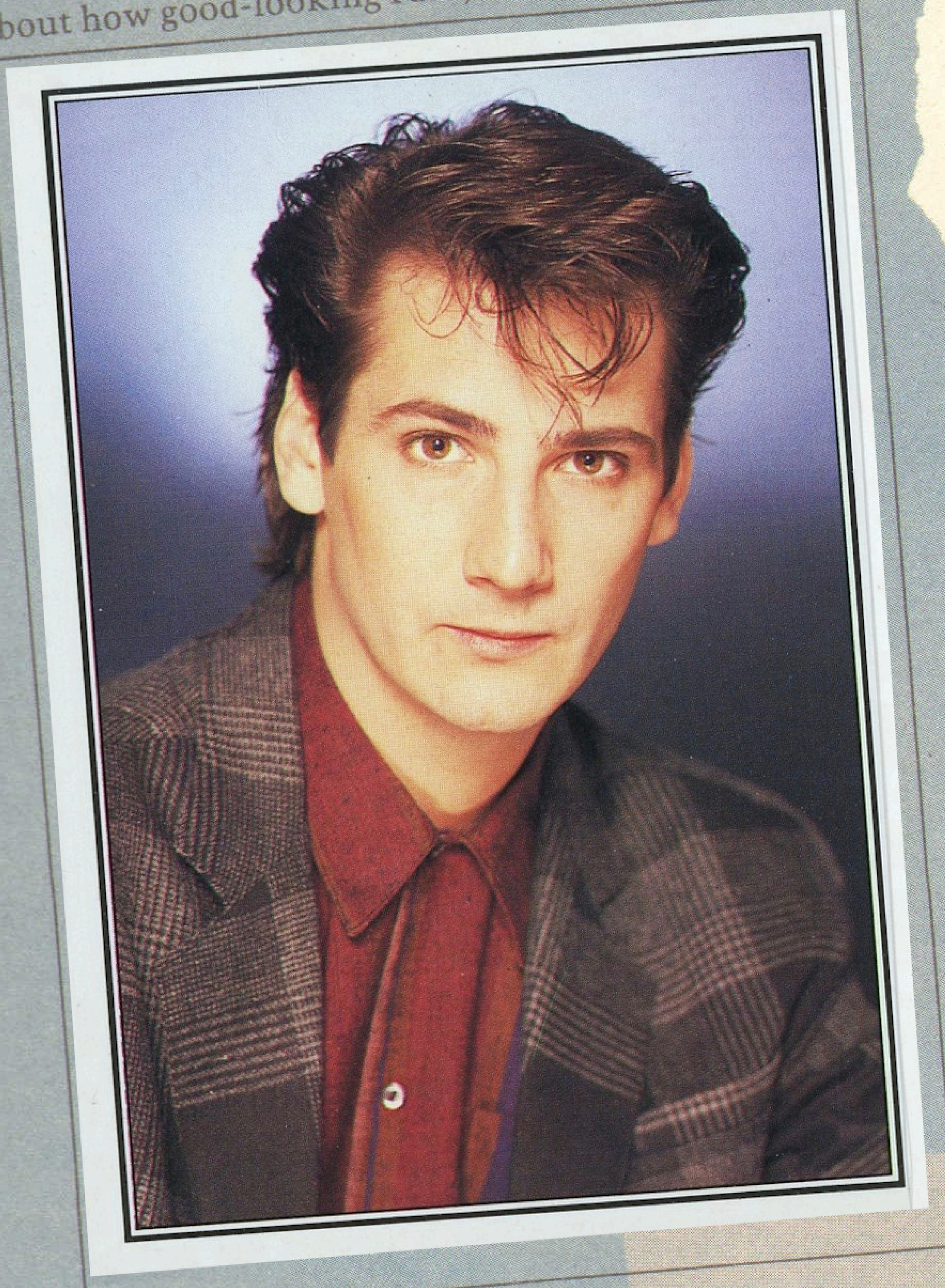
MARILYN: born Peter Robinson 3/11/62 in Kingston, Jamaica. After returning to Britain, represented Hertfordshire schools at gymnastics before impersonating Marilyn Monroe for a living in Los Angeles. One of London's original nightclubbers. Remarkably quiet (in recording terms) for long period after dramatic entrance with "Calling Your Name" and less successful follow-ups.

TONY HADLEY: born 26/6/60. Wife Leonie, son Thomas. First record bought: "Double Barrel" by Dave and Ansel Collins. Singing influences: Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand and '60s star Tom Jones, with a little Annie Lennox, Daryl Hall and Freddie Mercury for good measure. Car: Opel GTE. Likes horse-riding. "If I believe all the stuff people tell me about how good-looking I am, I'd be a right prat."

MARTIN KEMP: born 10/10/61. Promising schoolboy footballer, trained with Arsenal. From age 9 attended – with Gary – Anna Scher acting school, landing minor TV roles from *Jackanory* to *The Glittering Prizes*. Last member to join, replacing previous bassist Richard Miller. Car: Porsche 911. "I'm 23 and I've got girls chasing me and people giving me free drinks all the time. You can't have it any better than that."

## Martin Kemp



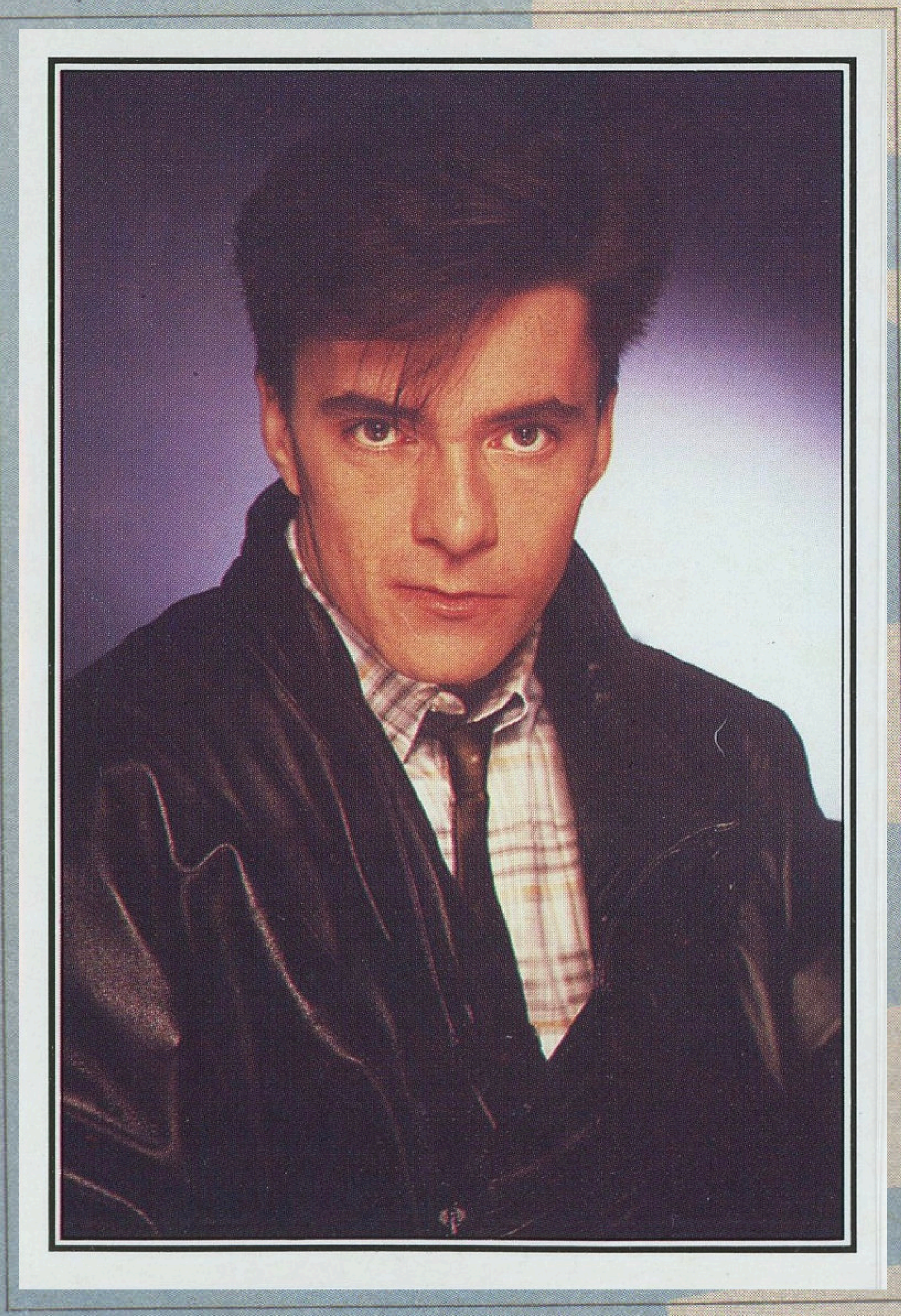


## Tony Hadley



JOHN KEEBLE: born 6/7/59. "I'm the drummer. You expect the singer to be the focus of the group but I'm not worried." Good at school – used to work on Foreign Exchange counter at bank. Likes cricket. Junk food eater. Has fixation with fast cars – owns 1972 Lotus – collector's item. When asked by *The Sun* what he'd do with a million pounds, retorted "Buy the *Daily Mirror!*"

# Spandau Ballet





## Gary Kemp

## John Keeble

GARY KEMP: born 16/10/59. Has been vegetarian for three years. First record bought: "Apeman" by The Kinks. First LP: "Electric Warrior" by T Rex. Hero: astronaut Neil Armstrong. Car: red Porsche 911SC – once got fined for speeding. Has flat in North London. "I collect nick-nacks. It's not kitsch – lots of trendy wood and trendy black. I'm short-sighted so I need a big TV so it dominates the room."

SPANDAU BALLET: Rising out of the ashes of failed power-pop band The Makers, Spandau Ballet made their first live appearance in November 1979 in a private rehearsal room in front of an audience of friends from the New Romantic club scene. Spandau Ballet were the first group to make music – a kind of tentative synth-disco – specifically for this extravagantly dressed set and, having received the thumbs up from their mates, went on to play a series of suitably exotic private dates – HMS Belfast on the Thames, Botanical Gardens in Birmingham – and finally a public date in London's Heaven. Each appearance was carefully designed to be a special event and to promote the image of flaunting an exclusive privileged scene to those outside.

This plan, hatched by Gary Kemp and "sixth member" manager Steve Dagger, worked perfectly and Spandau got their label deal amid a blaze of publicity and controversy. The arguments didn't end with the foppish clothes – Spandau also introduced a whole new attitude about enjoying yourself and there were accusations of flirting with fascism on the second single "Musclebound"'s provocative imagery. Still, despite (or perhaps because of) the arguments, Spandau moved on – with the occasional wobble – from electro-disco to funkier dance records ("Chant" No.1) and more sophisticated soft soul (their long-running No.1 "True").

Despite the public jet-setting image of fashionable clothes and exotic videos, not to mention a tendency to verge on the pretentious in search of credibility, privately Spandau Ballet remain five close friends from the same Islington background giving 100% to make a better life for themselves. To quote Steve Norman: "You're up there and you're playing and the audience is enjoying it and everything is going great, then you look around . . . and there's all your best mates up there with you! It's just brilliant!"

## The Redskins

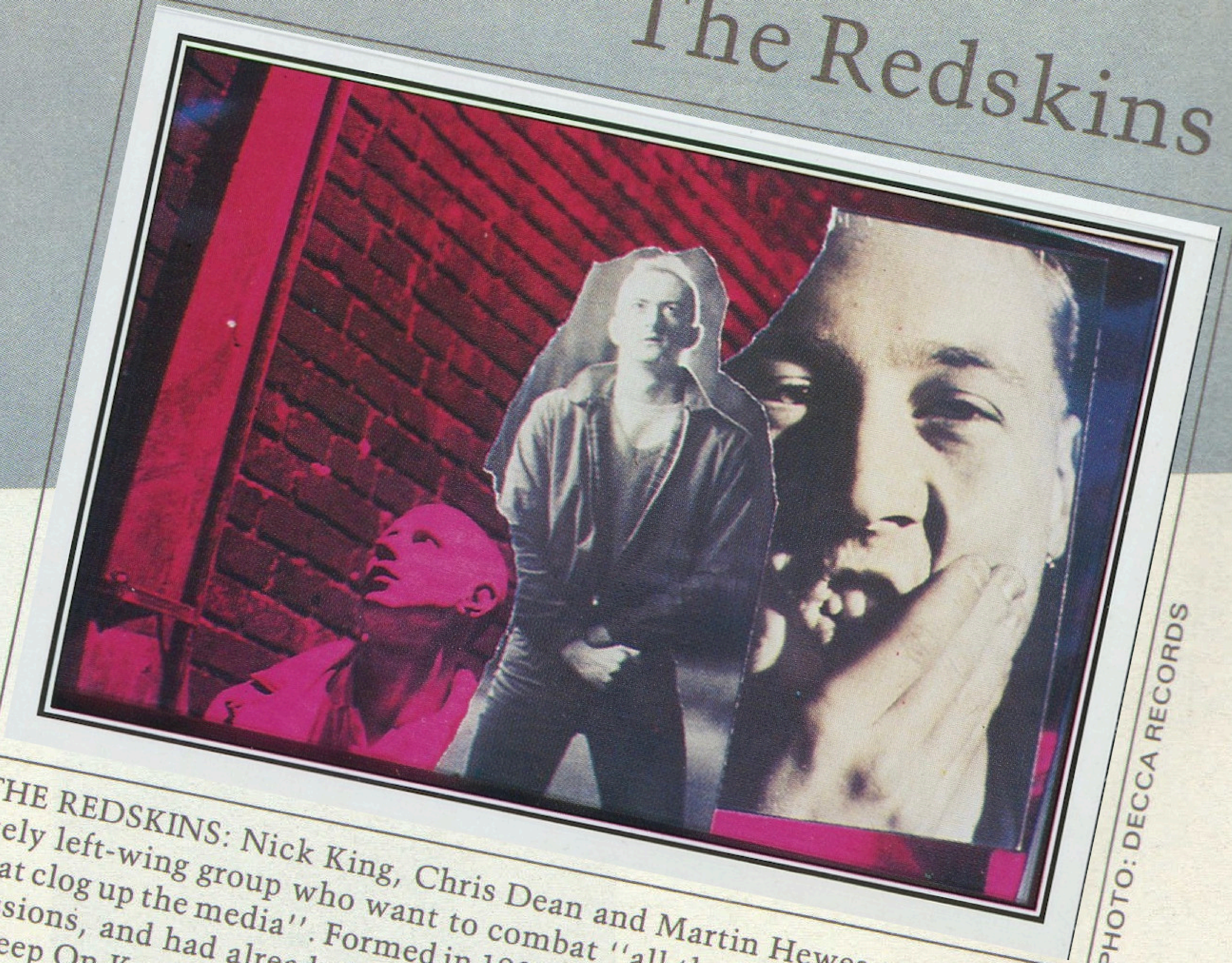
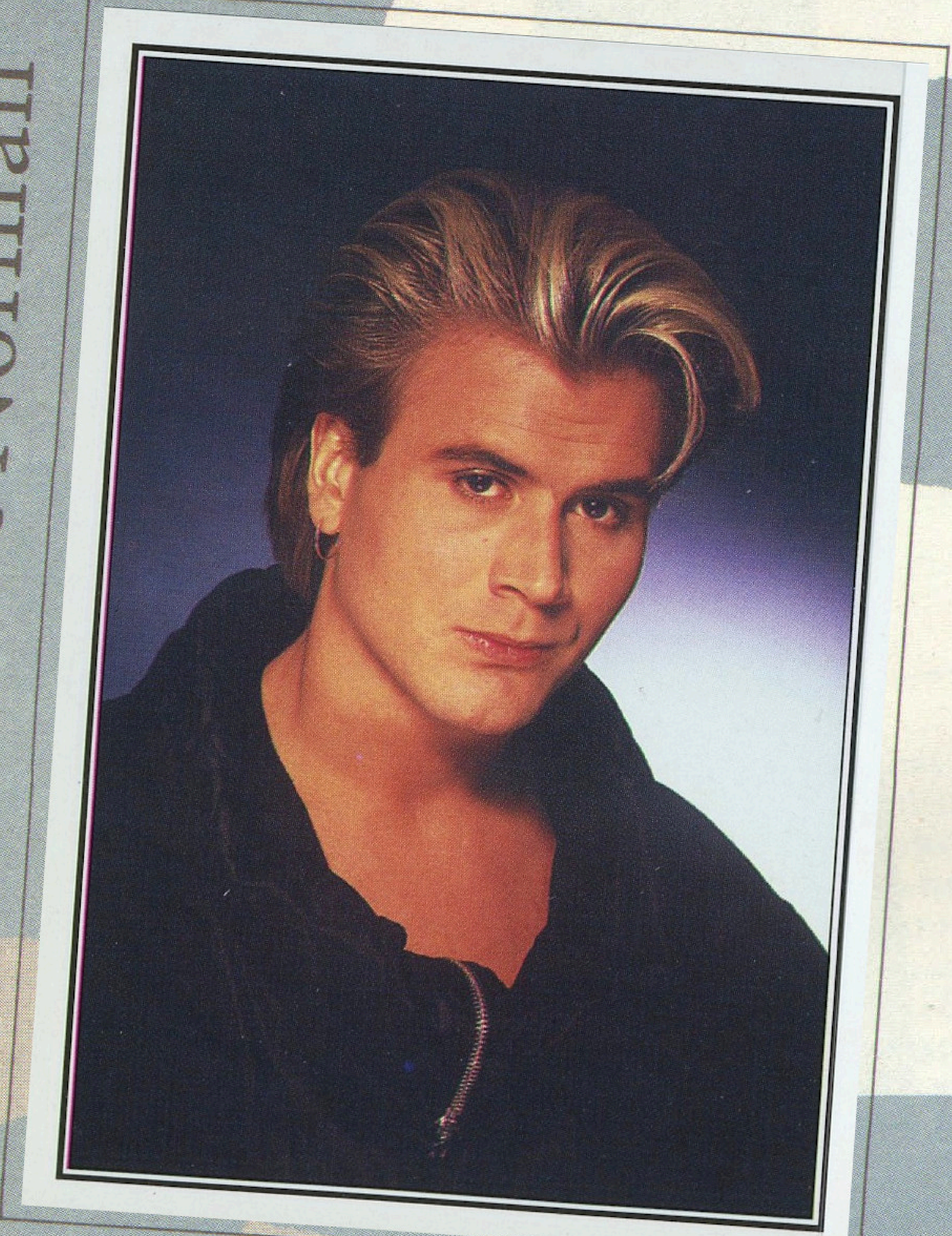


PHOTO: DECCA RECORDS

THE REDSKINS: Nick King, Chris Dean and Martin Hewes are a passionately left-wing group who want to combat "all the bland and inane things that clog up the media". Formed in 1982, they played benefits, did John Peel sessions, and had already built up a staunch independent following when "Keep On Keeping On" ("a song about struggle") spread their message to the Top 40. "Music and politics have always been linked," they reckon.

## Steve Norman



STEVE NORMAN: born 25/3/60. Played guitar in school assembly. First concert: Slade in 1972. Worked in print trade after school – did well but didn't fancy management. Always wanted to be famous. Gets most Spandau fan mail. Has pet piranha, also dog called Harry. Car: Lotus Esprit – "I don't go as far as the furry dice!" Enjoys photography and cooking – "curries are my speciality."

## Tears for Fears



TEARS FOR FEARS: Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith began working together in Bath, where both still live. As Graduate, "a derivative pop group", were a failure but then discovered synthesisers. Third single "Mad World" put them in Top 10. Wrongly dismissed as wimps, they've now abandoned the sensitivity of their Primal Therapy-inspired album "The Hurting" for "something rougher, more rock'n'roll".

## Kane Gang



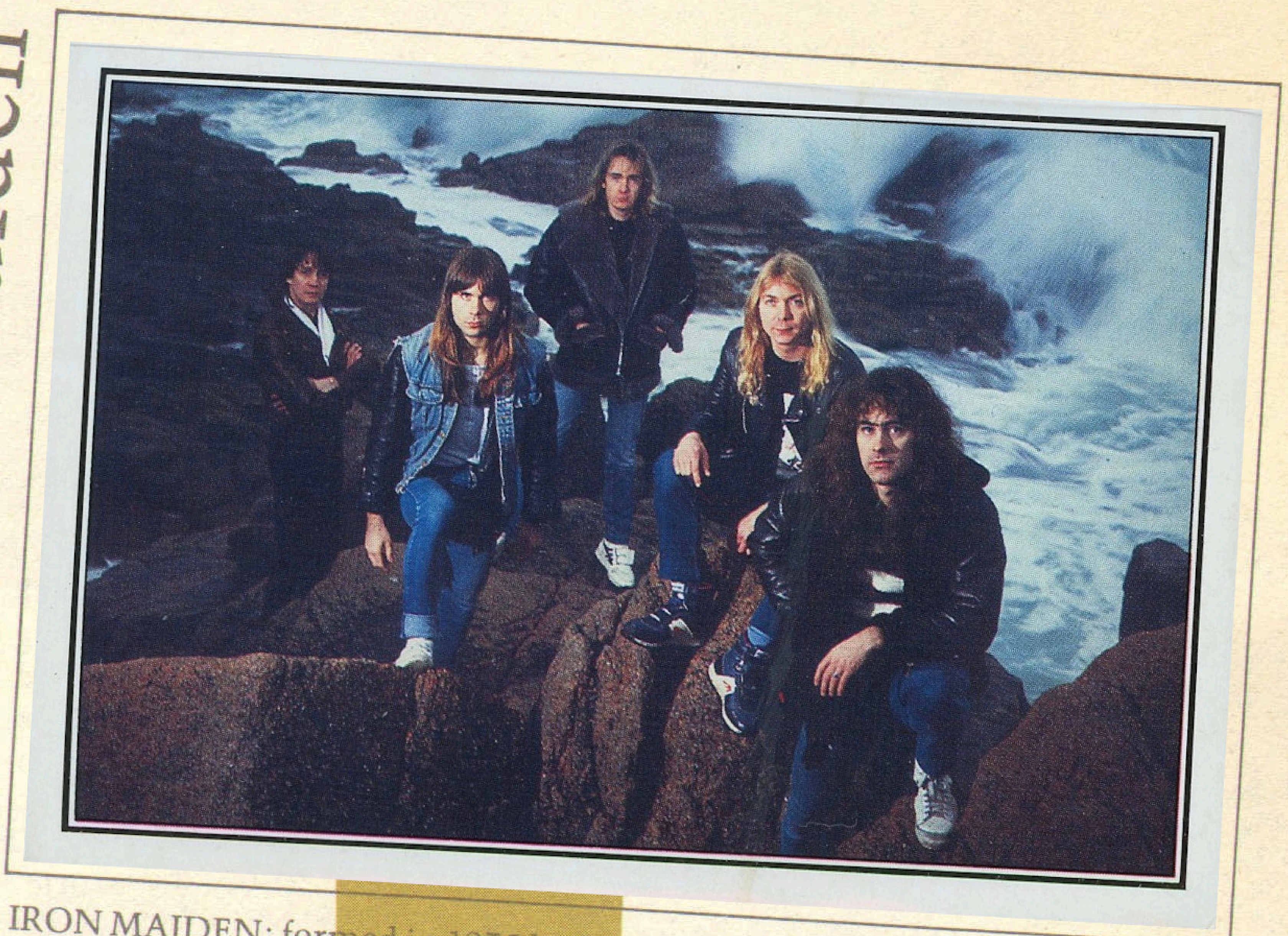
KANE GANG: Sunderland-based soul trio. Instrumentalist Dave Brewis and singers Martin Brammer and Paul Woods had known each other for ten years. Previously called Kings Of Cotton. About to split when discovered by Newcastle's trendy Kitchenware label (also home of Prefab Sprout and Daintees). Sweet ballad "Closest Thing To Heaven" succeeded where rousing first two singles failed.

## Cyndi Lauper



CYNDI LAUPER: wild, wacky and from Brooklyn, New York, claims to have been performing most of her life. From 1979-82 sang with Blue Angel but success came with solo clownish image and frivolous songs like "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" and more delicate "Time After Time". Her philosophy is "no balls, no glory" and when you see her hairstyle you can understand why.

## Iron Maiden



IRON MAIDEN: formed in 1975 by former schoolboy soccer prodigy, bassist Steve Harris. Name inspired by film "Man In The Iron Mask". Played debut single "Running Free" live on Top Of The Pops – first band for years to do so. Since then, despite several line-up changes, their old-fashioned but concise heavy metal music and cheap horror imagery has firmly established them as international superstars.

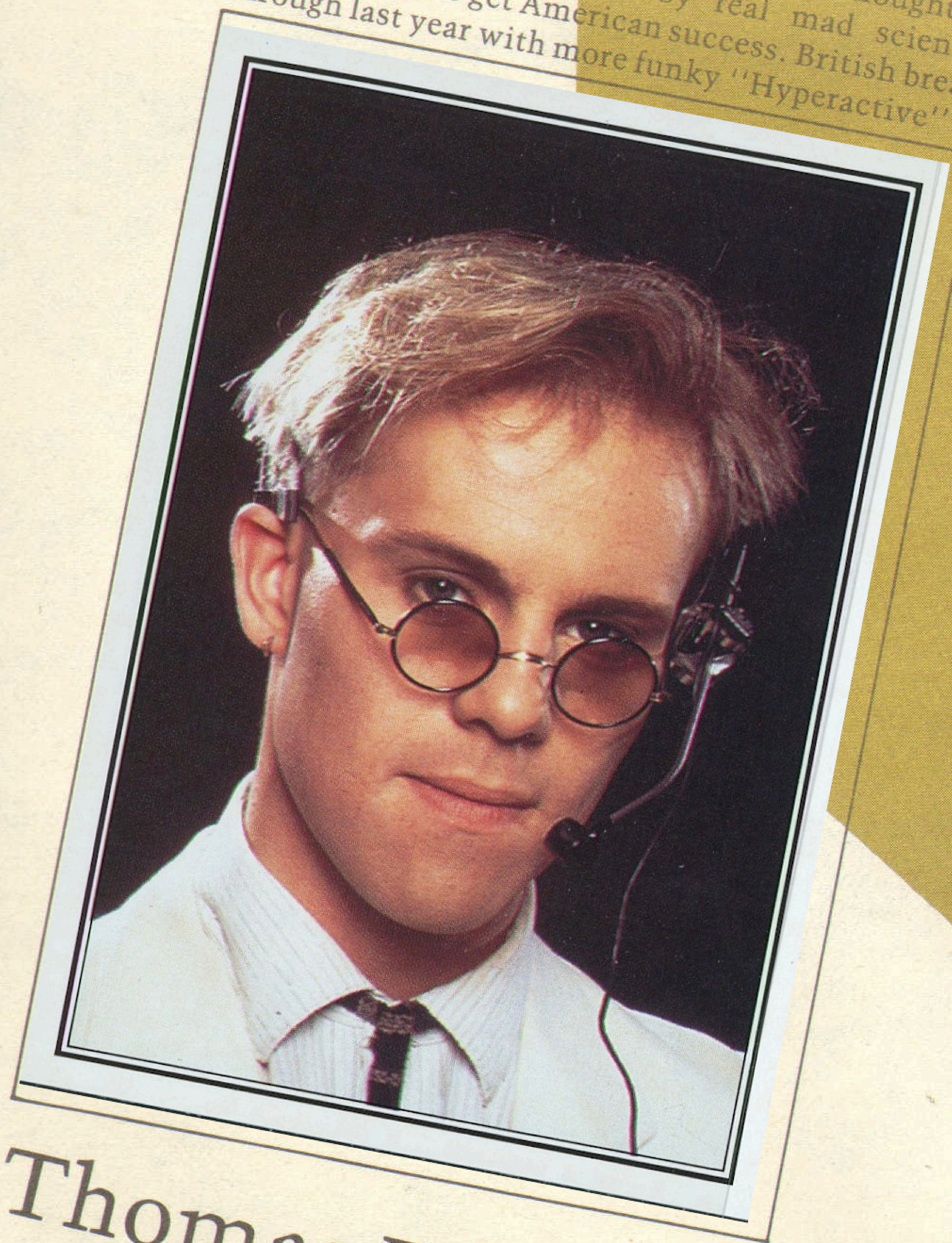
PHOTO: RETNA

## Heaven 17



HEAVEN 17: once half of The Human League, Martyn Ware and Ian Craig Marsh – together with vocalist Glenn Gregory – finally made it with seventh single "Temptation". Now chart regulars with solid electronic brand of pop and soul, they're sharp, witty and committed socialists. Recently involved with Tina Turner, Jimmy Ruffin and the Council Collective's "Soul Deep" benefit single for the miners.

THOMAS DOLBY: born 14/10/58 in Cairo. Unsettled childhood travelling Europe with archaeologist father. Played keyboards for Lene Lovich, Foreigner and Joan Armatrading before adopting scientific boffin image for own material. Quiet and thoughtful, it took video appearance by real mad scientist Magnus Pyke to get American success. British breakthrough last year with more funky "Hyperactive".



## Thomas Dolby

STRAWBERRY SWITCHBLADE: formed in Glasgow, 1982. Jill Bryson and Rose McDowall are renowned for their over-the-top polka dot clothes ("we used to be much weirder when we were punks"), calling themselves "scabby witches from Scotland" and giggling a lot. Write tuneful songs about "traumatic things like being agoraphobic and not being able to go out" and had first hit with second single "Since Yesterday".



PHOTO: ERIC WATSON

## Strawberry Switchblade

EURYTHMICS: they came from different backgrounds; Dave Stewart, a starry-eyed roaming minstrel, plucking stringed instruments with hippie folk troupes; Annie Lennox, a flute and harpsichord student at the Royal Academy Of Music. They met, fell in love, and helped form flowery and deeply unfashionable pop quintet, The Tourists, in '77. Had two hits and broke up in Australia three years later. Now out of love, the duo re-emerged as Eurythmics in 1982, pioneers of both powerful synthesised dance music and the cheap home-produced promotional video, eventually securing a worldwide hit with "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)". Since then Annie's married a Hare Krishna devotee, Dave's produced American garage bands, but together they've maintained the ingenious videos and a steady stream of stately, dramatic pop tunes sung in a manner that makes spines tingle in all countries where there are record players. Dave remains unaffected by "this star stuff. It's a bit plasticy, y'know".

## Eurythmics



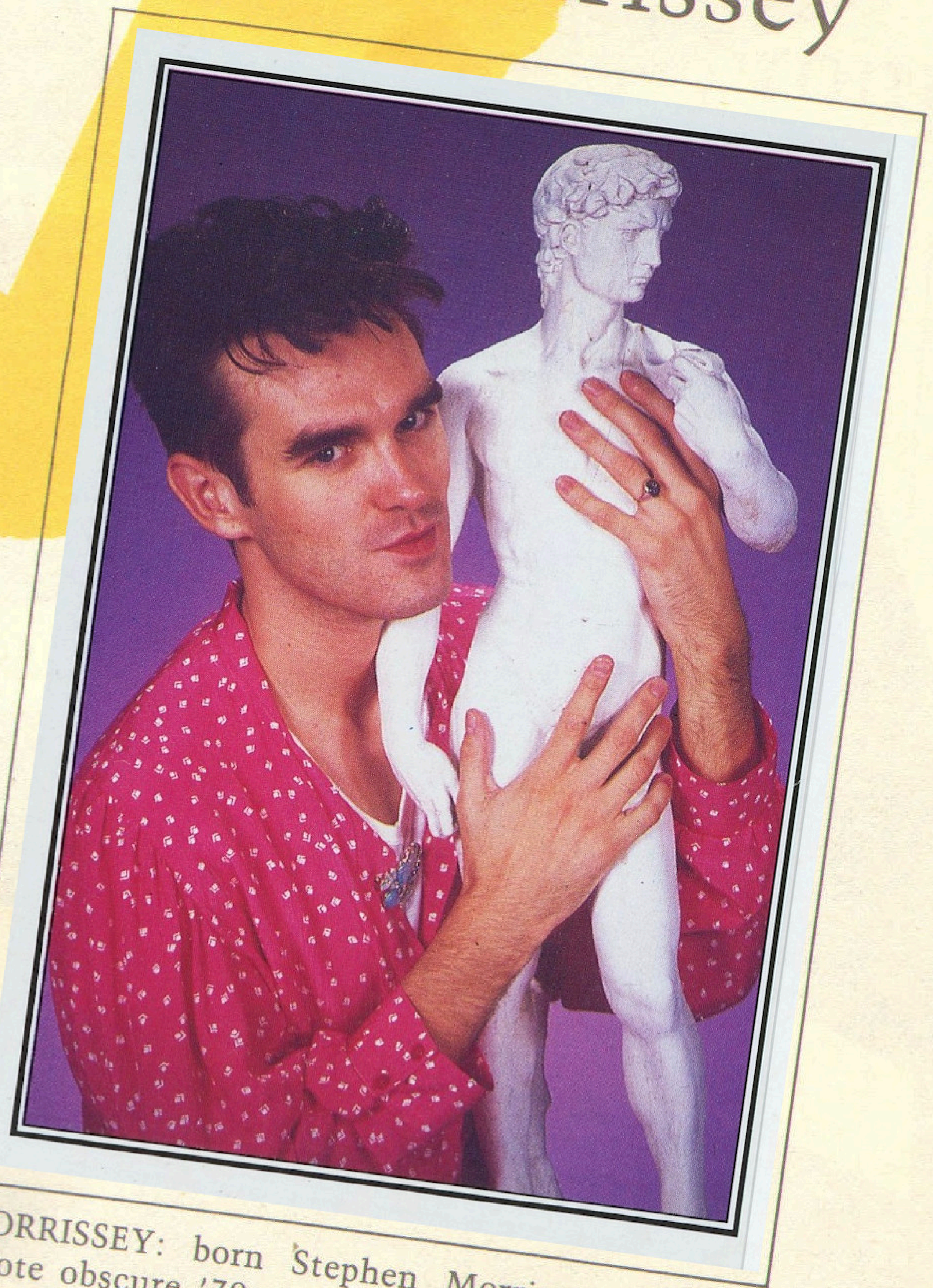
## Annie Lennox



ANNIE LENNOX: born 25/12/54. Warm, friendly, deeply sensitive. Relaunched singing career wearing men's clothes when her blonde wig got pulled off at a concert revealing severely cropped hair. Turns down lucrative advertising contracts, refuses to eat meat. Suffers from pressures of stardom. "Sometimes you think: is it worth doing this job?"

## Morrissey

THE SMITHS: formed in Manchester in 1982 by guitarist Johnny Marr, they saved Morrissey from certain death – "I was wilting very quickly and preparing for the next world". Bassist Andy Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce completed the line-up and despite large offers from major companies, they deliberately opted for Rough Trade. The first three singles – "Hand In Glove", "This Charming Man" and "What Difference Does It Make?" – occupied the top three positions in the independent charts the same week. The last two also made it to *Top Of The Pops* – the first appearance being the legendary bunch of chrysanths job and the other featuring the hearing aid and National Health specs. "Hand In Glove" was eventually a hit for Sandie Shaw, another of Morrissey's idols. With three hit albums – "The Smiths", "Hatful Of Hollow" and now "Meat Is Murder" – the band reckon the charts need them more than they need the charts. "I really do think what we do is of tremendous value," declares Morrissey.



## The Smiths



MORRISSEY: born Stephen Morrissey 22/5/59. Wrote obscure '70s pamphlets praising New York Dolls and James Dean before rising to fame with The Smiths. Pushed anti-hero image to new depths with outsize women's shirts and lyrics constantly proclaiming misery and illness. Fey, painfully meticulous with sharp caustic wit, lists Billy Fury and Oscar Wilde among his heroes.

# Culture Club



PHOTO: ANDRE CSILLAG

CULTURE CLUB: It was third time lucky for Culture Club, as their first two singles – ''White Boys'' and ''I'm Afraid Of Me'' – made no impact on the charts. Things certainly changed when ''Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?'' was released in September 1982. Despite being described by one reviewer as ''weak, watered down 4th division reggae'', it shot to No.1 and the mere sight of Boy George on *Top Of The Pops* was enough to set the headlines ablaze. ''WALLY OF THE WEEK!'', ''GENDER BENDER!'' and ''MR (OR IS IT MISS) WEIRD!'' they screamed, and Culture Club have been in the headlines ever since.

The first LP ''Kissing To Be Clever'' topped the charts around the world and the gold discs started pouring in. In October 1983 they released their second LP ''Colour By Numbers'', so called because ''we've got so much to do this year, we've coloured in every day of the calendar''. It was an immense hit and the group embarked on a seemingly endless round of world tours, TV appearances etc, winning awards left, right and centre. By now George was so famous that he had his model in Madame Tussauds, been (allegedly) referred to by Princess Margaret as ''an over made-up tart'' and been the first man on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

However, even Culture Club cannot afford to rest on their laurels. Their third LP ''Waking Up With The House On Fire'' had very disappointing sales and a tour of America was poorly received. Even so, George feels he's achieved something. ''I've made people accept outrageousness. I've made people bring it into their homes and make it a commodity. That's never happened before in such a unique way.''



# Boy George



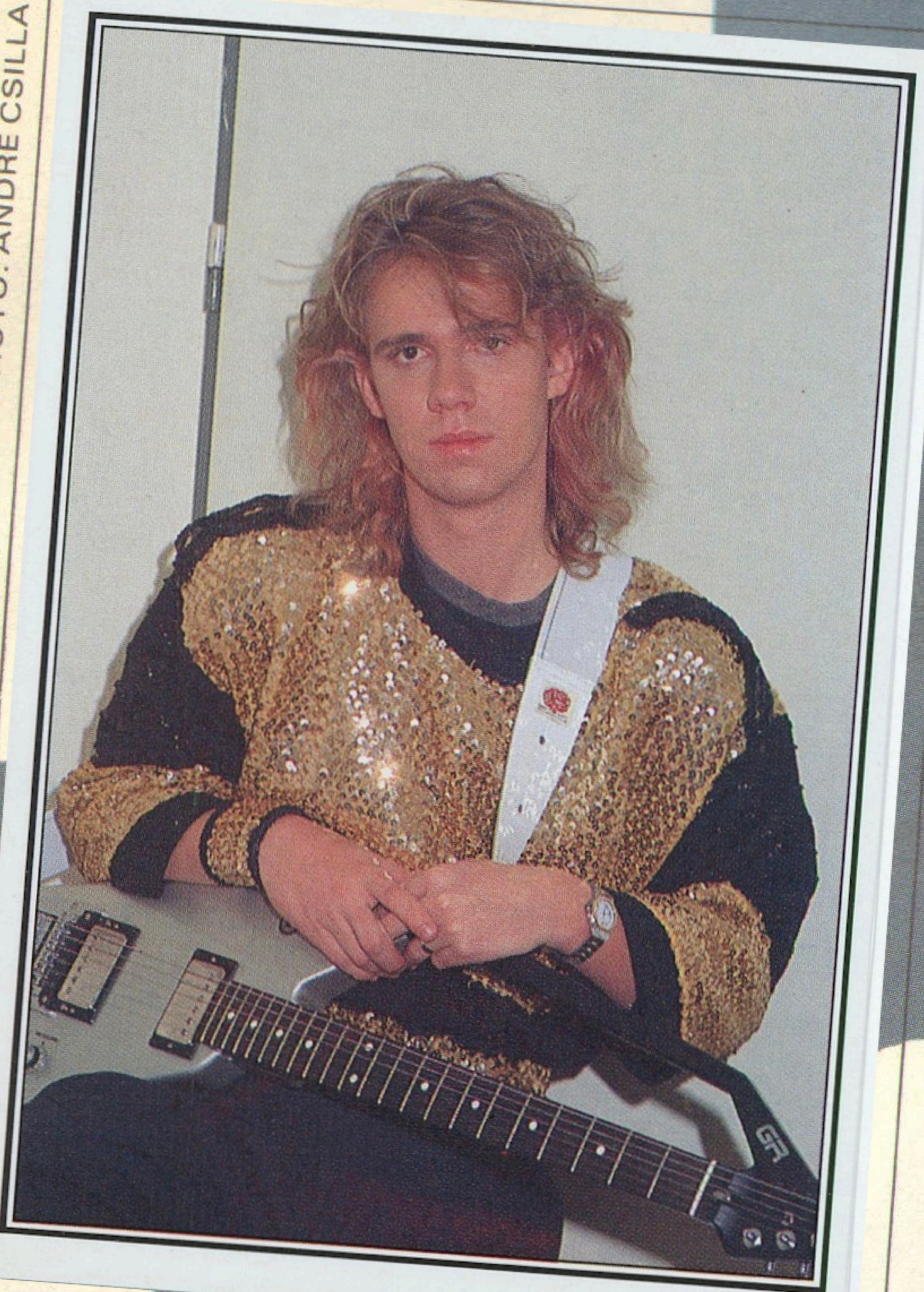
PHOTO: ANDRE CSILLAG



BOY GEORGE: born George O'Dowd 14/6/61. Has described himself as ''a tart with a heart of gold'' and ''a poof with muscles'', and reckons being a pop star is like ''being thrown out of the window naked''. Extremely talkative but always honest, full of good sense and knows just how much to rock the boat. Wants to ''keep changing, be unpredictable'' and on the cover of *Vogue* magazine.

# Roy Hay

PHOTO: ANDRE CSILLAG

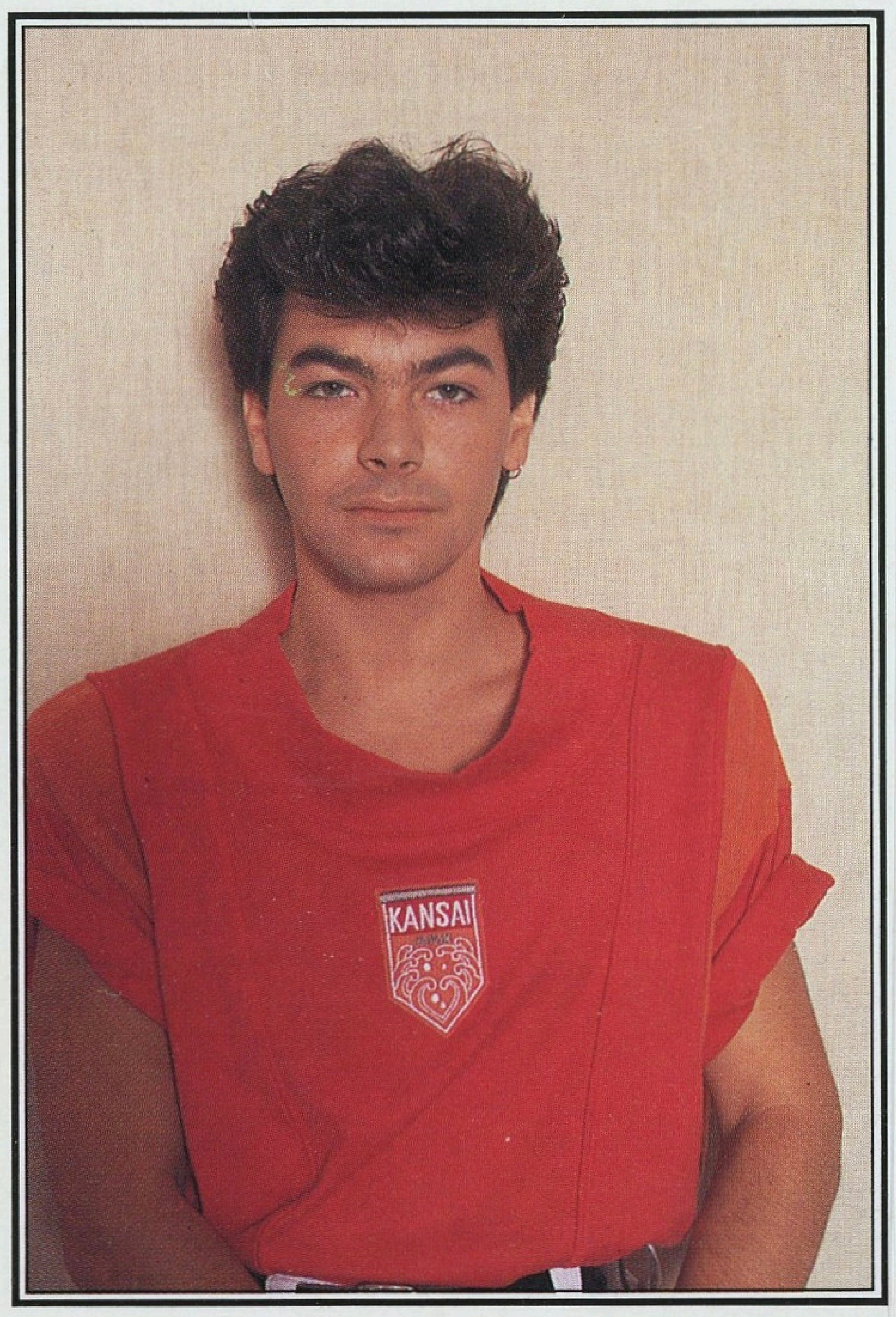


ROY HAY: born 12/8/61. Worked in insurance office for three years then hairdresser by trade when friend recommended him to George as guitarist. Married Alison in 1982 and now lives in large Essex house where his office is ''completely covered with synthesisers and things'' and has small recording studio in the garden. Described by Mikey as ''very balladish'', prefers music to fashion.

# Jon Moss

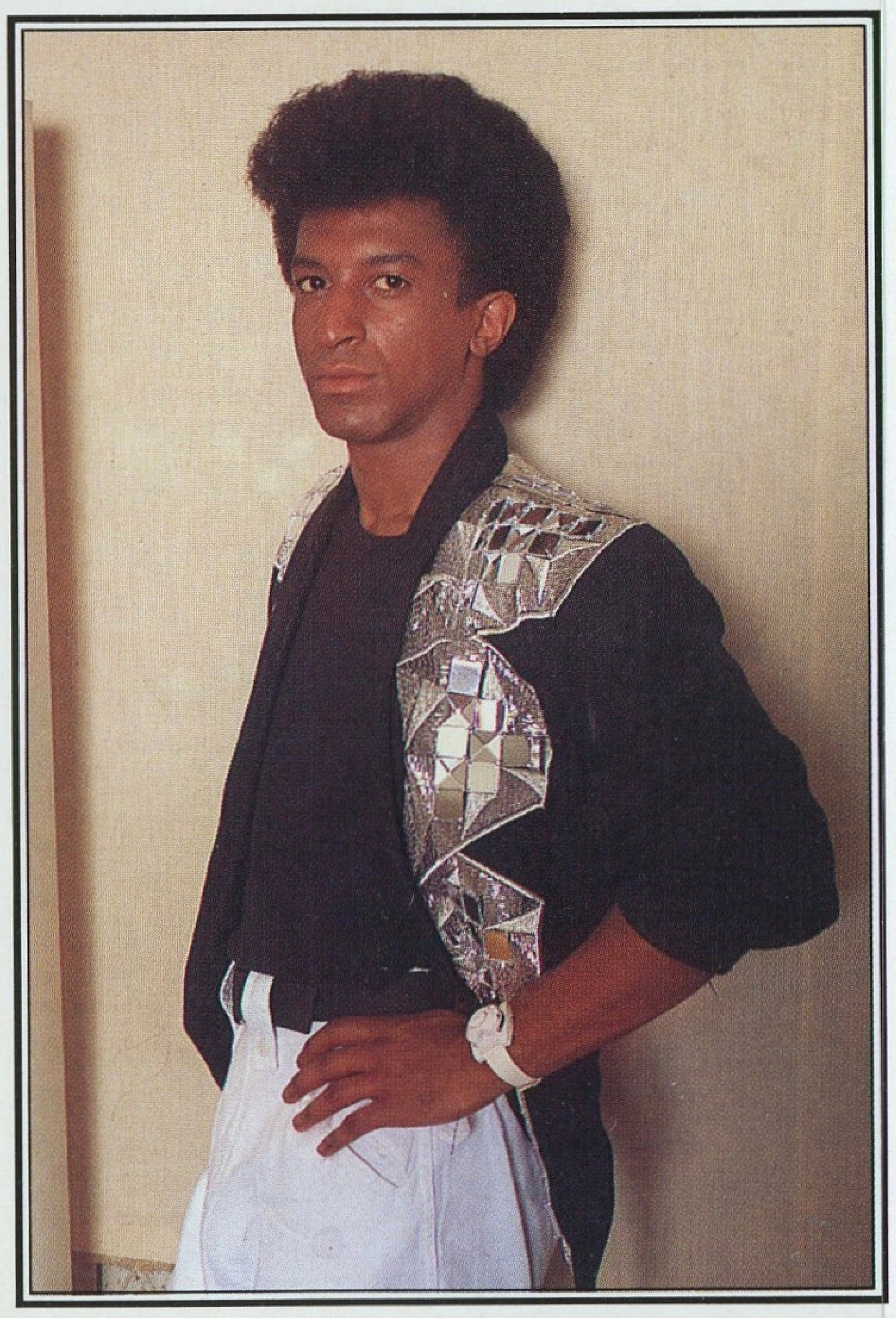
JON MOSS: born 11/9/57. Oldest member, most business-minded and ''stabilising influence''. Has drummed in groups as diverse as Eskimo Norbert and The Damned. Previously very right wing but now increasingly aware and hankers after more than mere pop success. ''Unfortunately I'm quite a deep thinker. I think I'm going to have to do a lot of soul searching over the next year.''

PHOTO: ANDRE CSILLAG



# Mikey Craig

PHOTO: ANDRE CSILLAG



MIKEY CRAIG: born 15/2/60. Bassist would like to think of Culture Club as ''an example to the world''. Ex-DJ, is ''reggaeish, funkyish'' influence on group. Recognises his position as ''making music and playing it – it doesn't worry me that the press always want to talk to George''. Would passionately like to do solo LP, ''not for the money, just for self-satisfaction''.

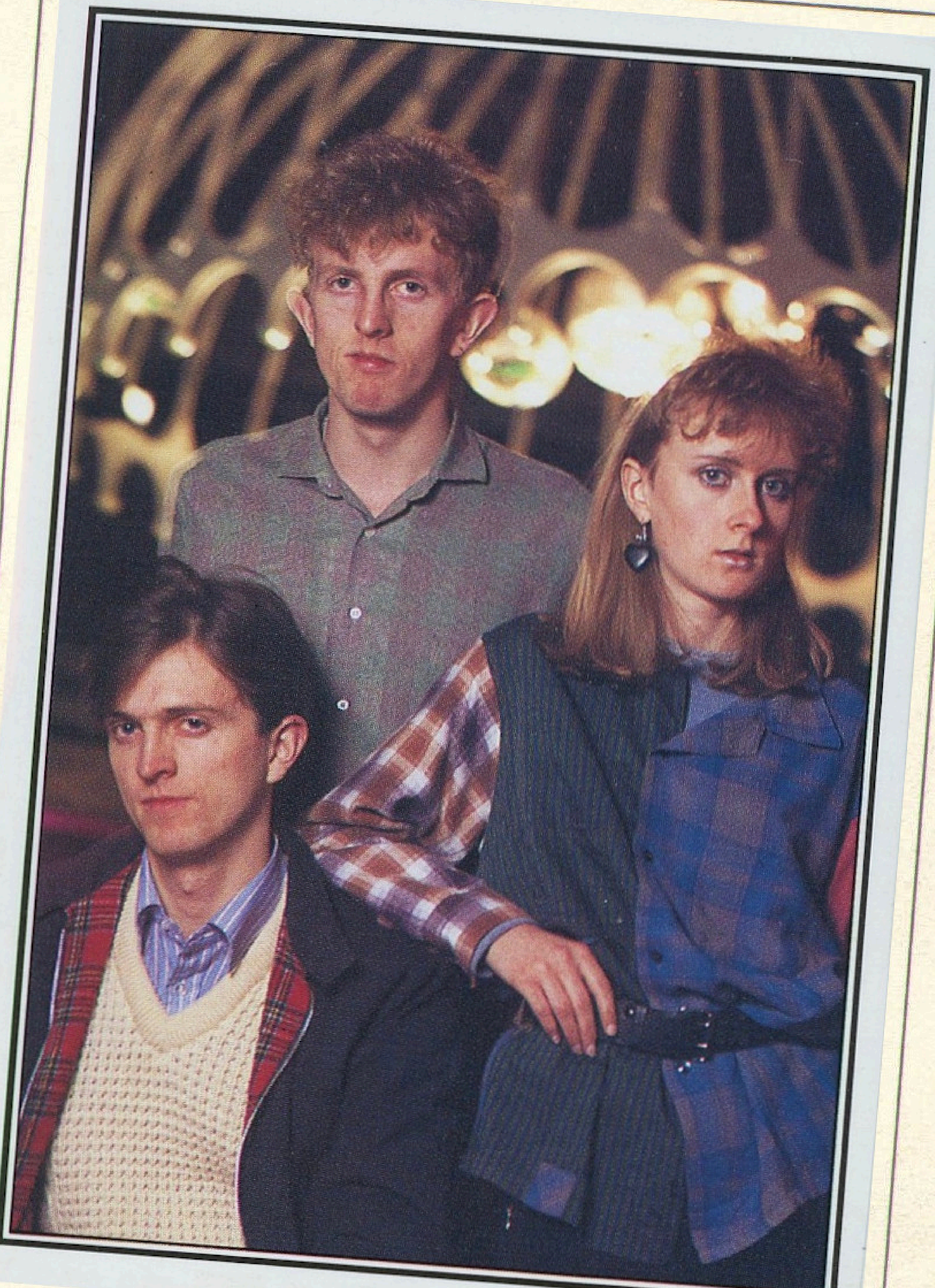
# Bananarama

BANANARAMA: formed September 1979 while Sarah and Siobhan studying journalism in London and Keren working at BBC. Made breakthrough via joint ''It Ain't What You Do'' hit with Fun Boy Three before establishing themselves with ''Shy Boy''. Live next door to each other in North London townhouses. Sarah's ''really moody'', Keren's ''a bit moody'' and Siobhan's ''not moody at all''.



PHOTO: RETNA

# Prefab Sprout



PREFAB SPROUT: formed around Durham by Paddy McAloon, ingenious architect of words and melodies, together with brother Martin and Wendy Smith. The name was intended to set them apart from groups who wanted to be ''youth messiah rebel figures''. They produce witty scenic passionate songs relying on little but the music to get across. Straight-forward they're not: ''It's going to take a little more thought''.



DAVID BOWIE: born Robert David Jones 8/1/47 in Brixton, London. Briefly a commercial artist. First release in 1963 as Davie Jones & The King Bees but first hit not until "Space Oddity" in 1969. Pioneered mime, glam and bisexuality in early '70s, and has always given impression of being at least two steps ahead of everybody else (though best work often with collaborators like Eno or Iggy Pop). Hence American soul disco in 1975 with "Young Americans", electronic synth music in 1976-77 with "Low" and "Heroes". Recently re-established commercial standing with more straightforward "Scary Monsters" and "Let's Dance" (latter produced by Chic's Nile Rodgers). Since early '70s has pursued parallel careers in film ("Man Who Fell To Earth", "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence"), theatre (New York production of "Elephant Man") and TV ("Baal"). Still adored by many for cool, mysterious sophistication and ability to return again and again, chameleon-like, for fresh triumphs.

# David Bowie

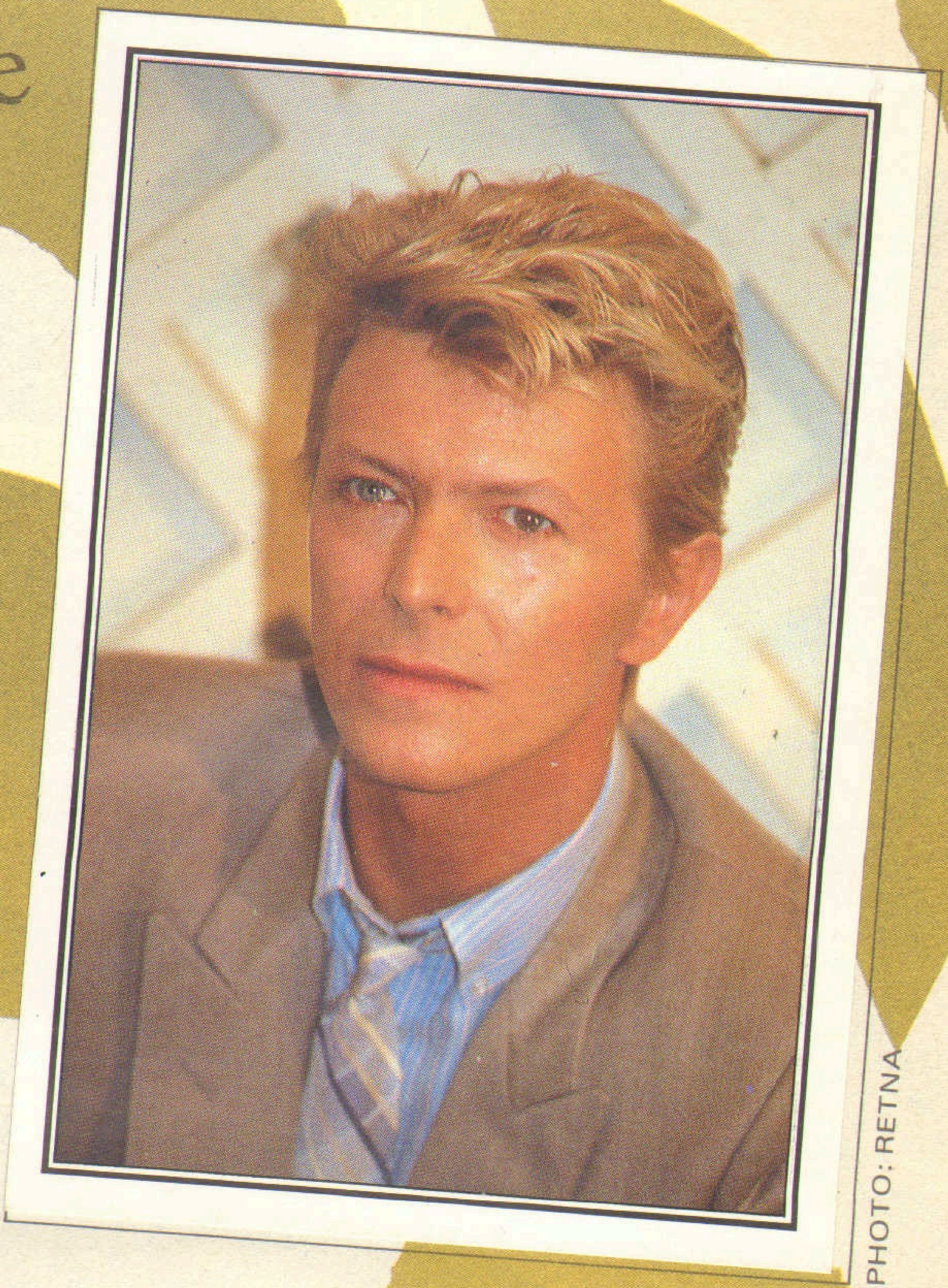
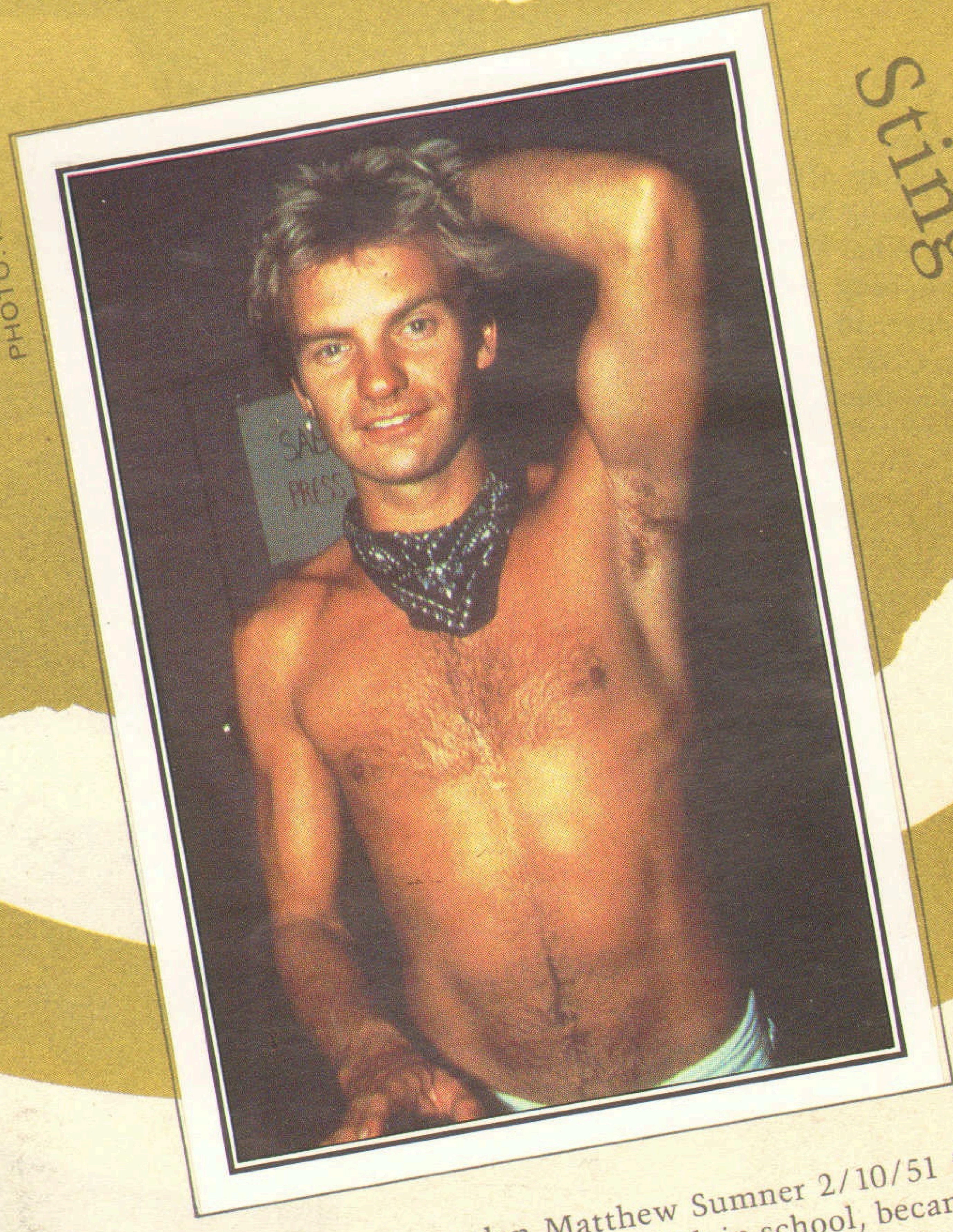


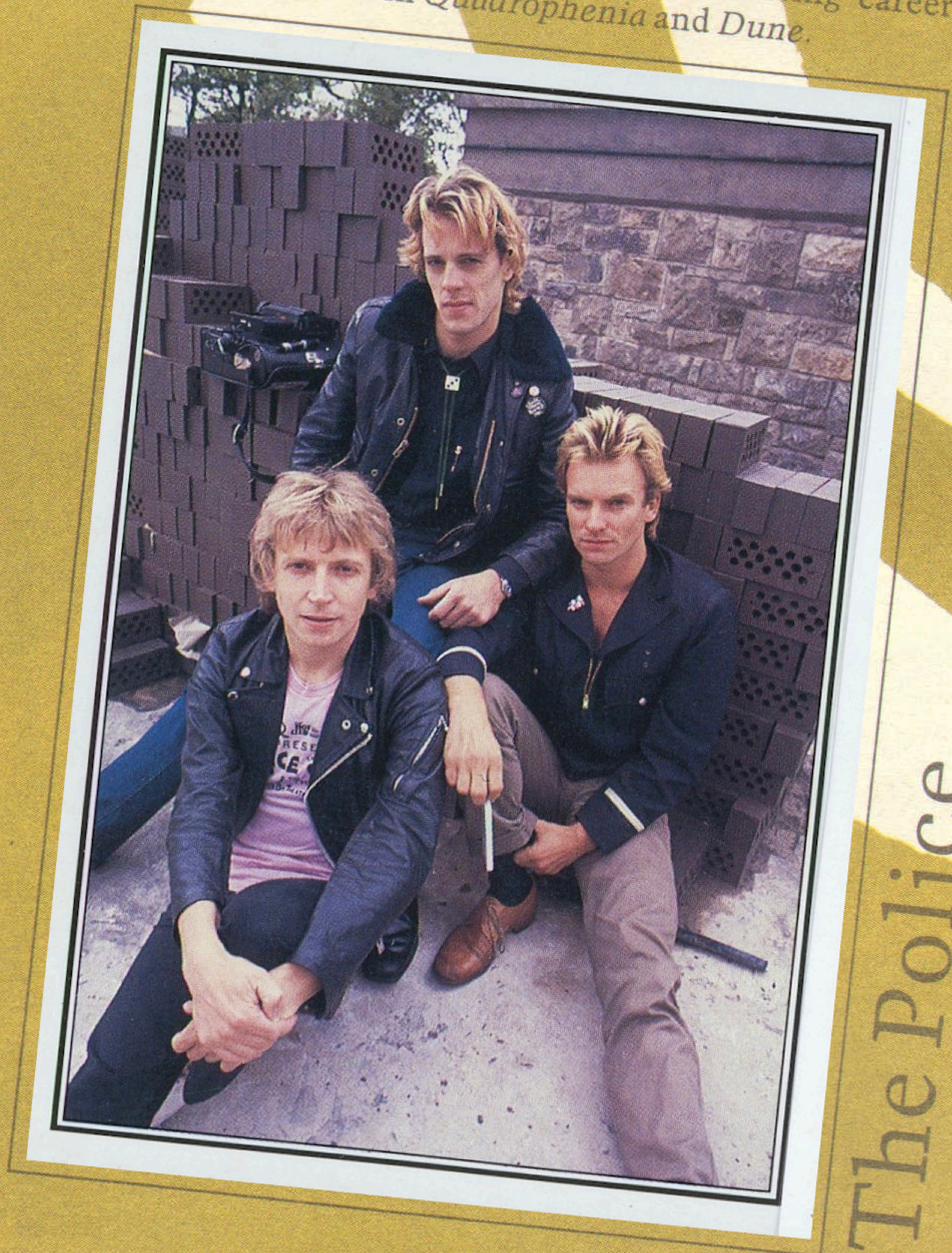
PHOTO: RETNA

THE POLICE: formed by American drummer Stewart Copeland who gave up progressive rock band Curved Air for something more energetic. Found bassist Sting and guitarist Henry Padovani, though experienced Andy Summers soon replaced Padovani. Took on any work to survive, including TV advert for Wrigley's chewing gum for which had to dye their hair blonde – subsequently became visual trademark. After "Roxanne" a hit second time around, world megastardom followed. Established characteristic sound based on Sting's strong pop/reggae tunes and distinctive voice. Despite keenly competitive atmosphere within group, material has become progressively less exciting, though fifth album "Synchronicity" No. 1 for fifteen weeks in America. Despite such success, split rumours persist. In early days Stewart had mysterious masked solo career as Klark Kent. More recently wrote and produced movie score for *Rumblefish*. Andy is keen photographer, also records with respected guitarist Robert Fripp. Sting pursues parallel acting career, including parts in *Quadrophenia* and *Dune*.

# Sting

PHOTO: RETNA

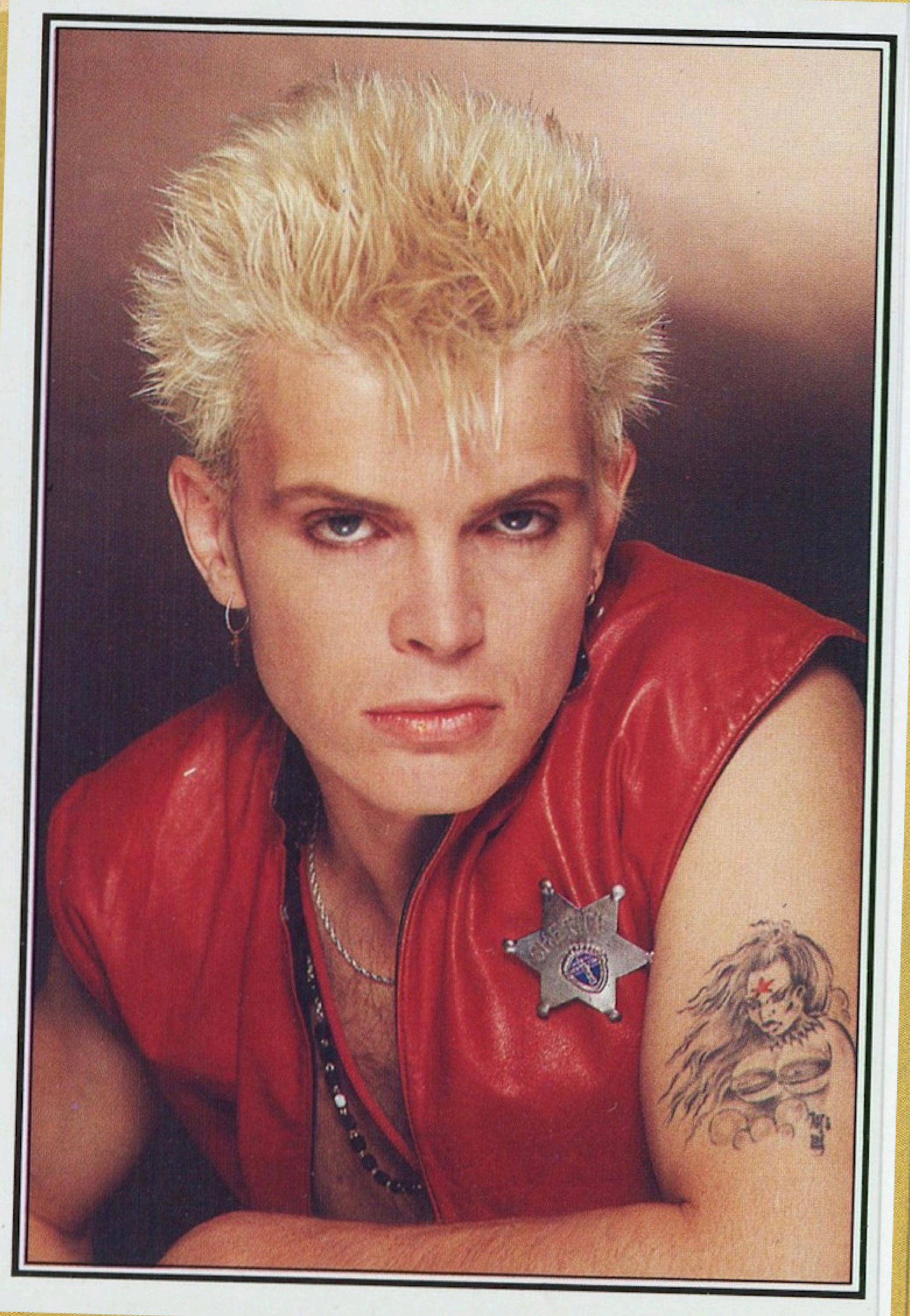




# The Police

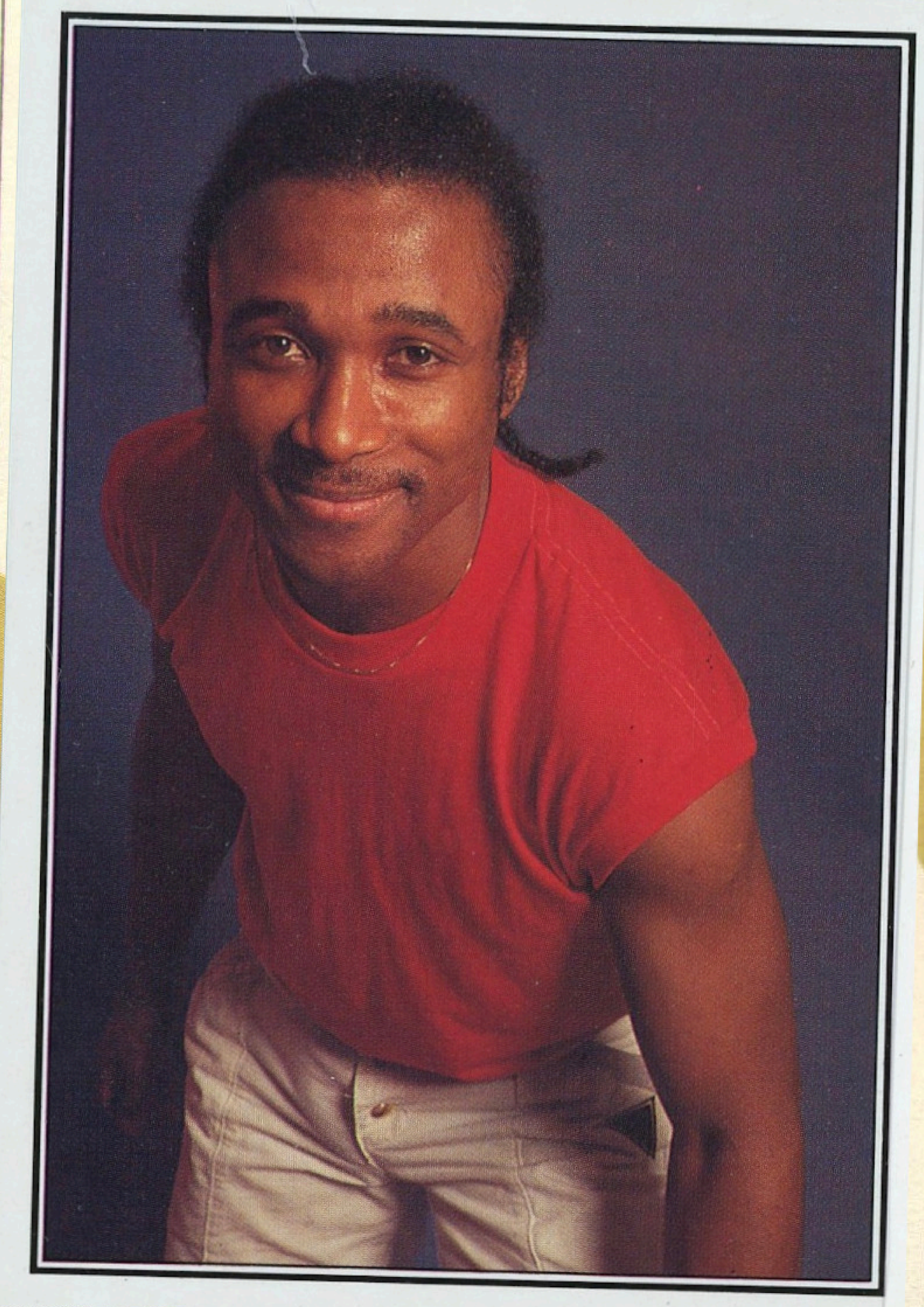
STING: born Gordon Matthew Sumner 2/10/51 in Newcastle. Always top at English in school, became schoolteacher. Got nickname when went to jazz/rock band Last Exit rehearsal wearing black and yellow hooped jersey. Socialist, bit of a loner. Recently became interested in intellectuals like Jung and Koestler – inspiration for much of "Ghost In The Machine" and "Synchronicity".

## Billy Idol



BILLY IDOL: born William Broad 30/11/55. Joined punk bands Chelsea and Generation X before moving to New York to pursue a solo career. Now a huge star in America with hits like "White Wedding" and the album "Rebel Yell" – a mixture of hard rock, disco and atmospheric ballads. Platinum blonde, outspoken and frankly *gorgeous* – he's here, he says, "to ROCK AND ROLL!"

## Galaxy



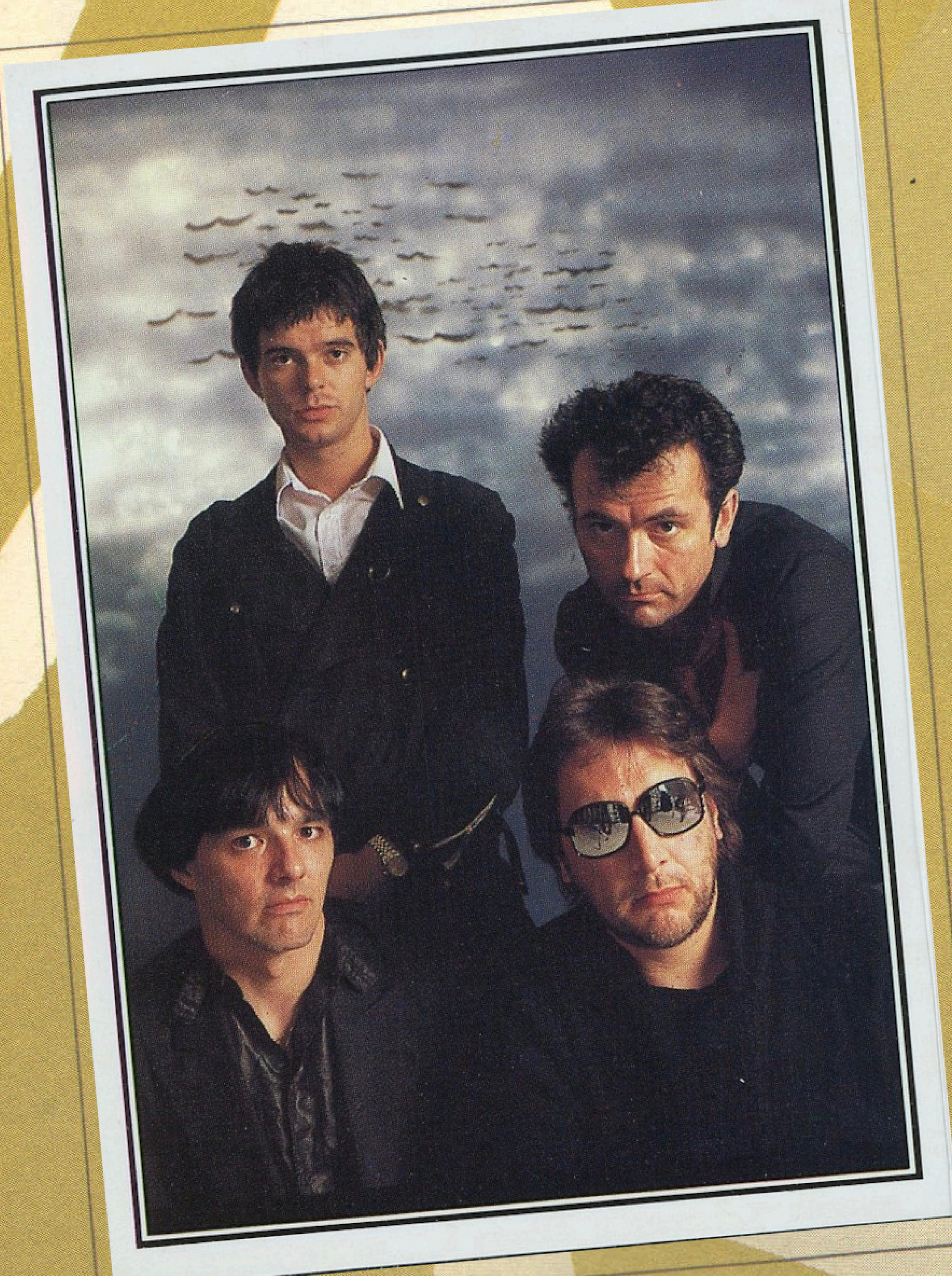
GALAXY: born 30/7/56 in Jamaica, Phil Fearon came to London aged 6. Took interest in electronics at school and built several instruments before joining soul group Kandidate (1979 hit "I Don't Wanna Lose You"). Left to build studio in family home, progressing to record attractive disco-soul of "Dancing Tight" etc. Now Britain's biggest black artist, is versatile, workaholic and a thoroughly nice guy.

## Shakin' Stevens

SHAKIN' STEVENS: born Michael Barrett 4/3/48. Brief job as upholsterer before embarking on wild career with Welsh rock'n'rollers The Sunsets. Starred in "Elvis" musical during hippy '70s before adopting safe, simple pop under guidance of new manager Freija Miller whom he later married. Man of few words, very popular with under-12s and over 35s.



## The Stranglers



THE STRANGLERS: Beginning as The Guildford Stranglers in '74, their dark scathing melodies came into focus with the punk movement in '77. They've since survived jail sentences, press attacks, and countless changes of musical climate to produce hits (like "Golden Brown") when the mood takes them. "We don't bother whether we're in favour or not."

## Grandmaster Flash

GRANDMASTER FLASH: born Melvin Glover in South Bronx, New York – "just an average ghetto kid looking for something to do". Started rapping at 14 and moved up from Furious Five to Grandmaster after Flash's departure. In fact long-running anti-drugs rap "White Lines" his work alone. Rap on Chaka Khan's "I Feel For You" then evolved into own "Step Off" hit. One of more creative and outspoken hip-hop stars.



TRACEY ULLMAN: born 30/12/59. Started career as a dancer, progressing to comedienne on TV's "Three Of A Kind". First hit with "Breakaway" in April 1983. After string of wacky videos, singing career has taken second place to acting – appeared in Paul McCartney's "Give My Regards To Broad Street". Married to TV producer millionaire Allan McKeown. Never goes anywhere without Yorkshire Terrier, Binky Beaumont.

## Tracey Ullman



## Aztec Camera

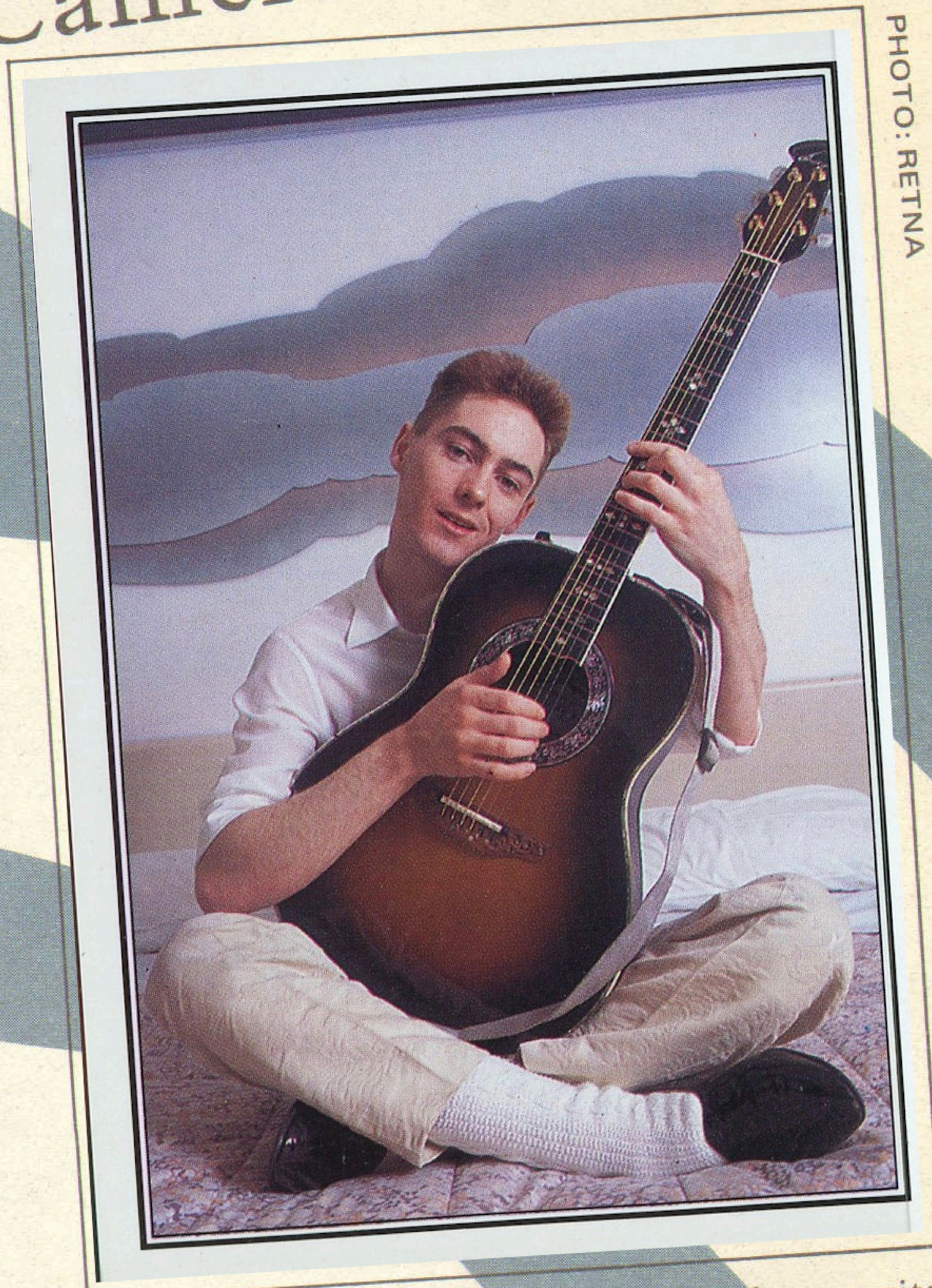


PHOTO: RETNA

AZTEC CAMERA: led by accomplished songwriter and guitarist Roddy Frame (born 29/1/64). Grew up "quite spoiled" near Glasgow, forming band while still at school. Writes emotional but thoughtful songs in classic style – second album "Knife" (produced by Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler) more polished but less remarkable. Strong character with unpredictable wild streak and impish humour.

## Rod Stewart



ROD STEWART: born 10/1/45. After school, signed as apprentice footballer to Brentford FC but left to pursue singing career. Sang with various rhythm and blues bands before joining booze'n'fags rockers The Faces in 1969. Solo career took off in '70s. Renowned for jet-set lifestyle, romantic dalliances and love of Scotland football team. In gossip columns as much as charts in recent years.

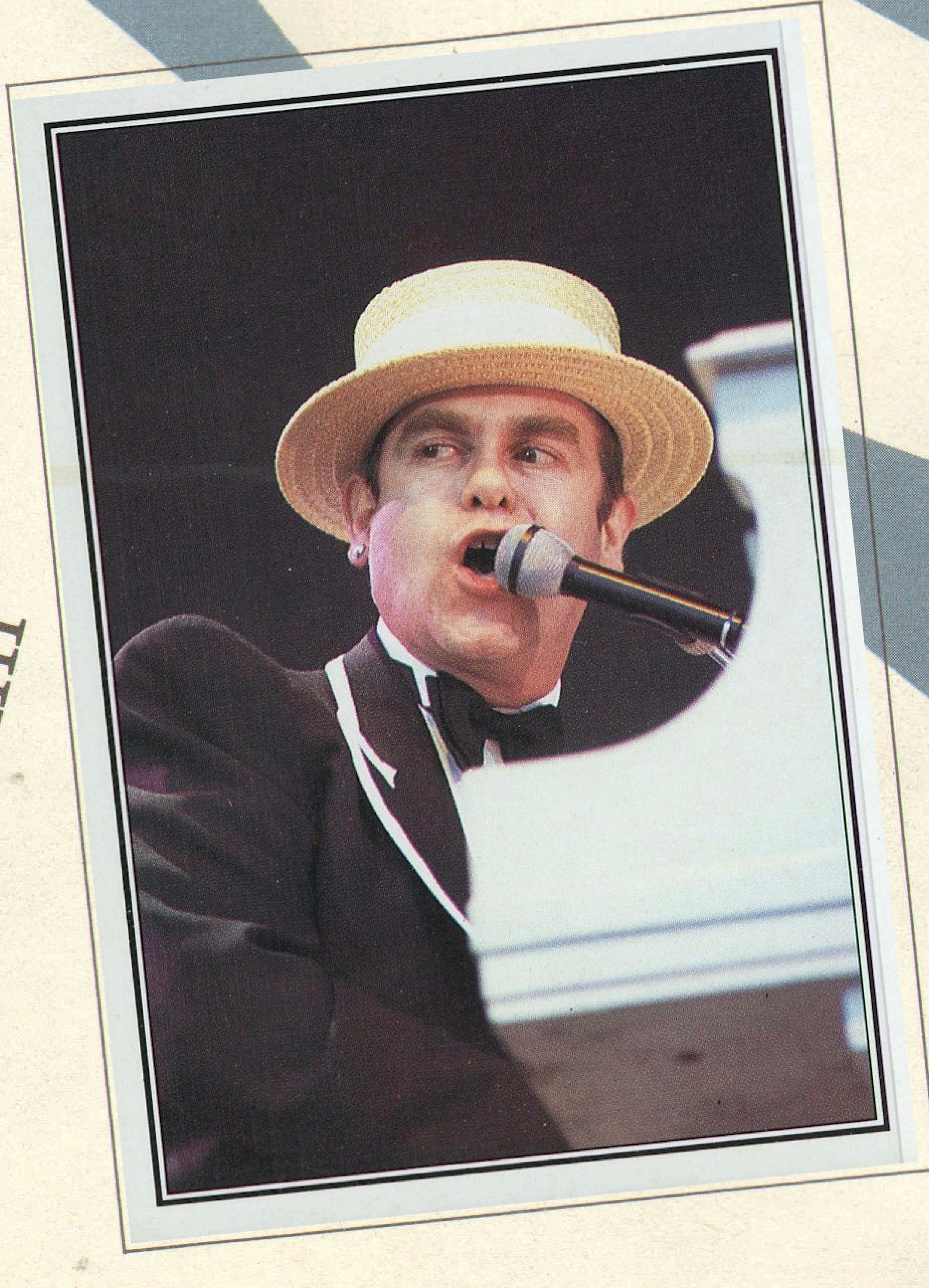
## Everything but the Girl

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL: previously different acts on same label, Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn (also with Marine Girls) did tasteful 1982 cover of Cole Porter classic "Night And Day" before progressing to own bitter-sweet acoustic songs with healthy dose of social comment. Flatmates and "just very good friends", they live in Hull, have just finished college and love The Smiths, yoghurt and potted plants.

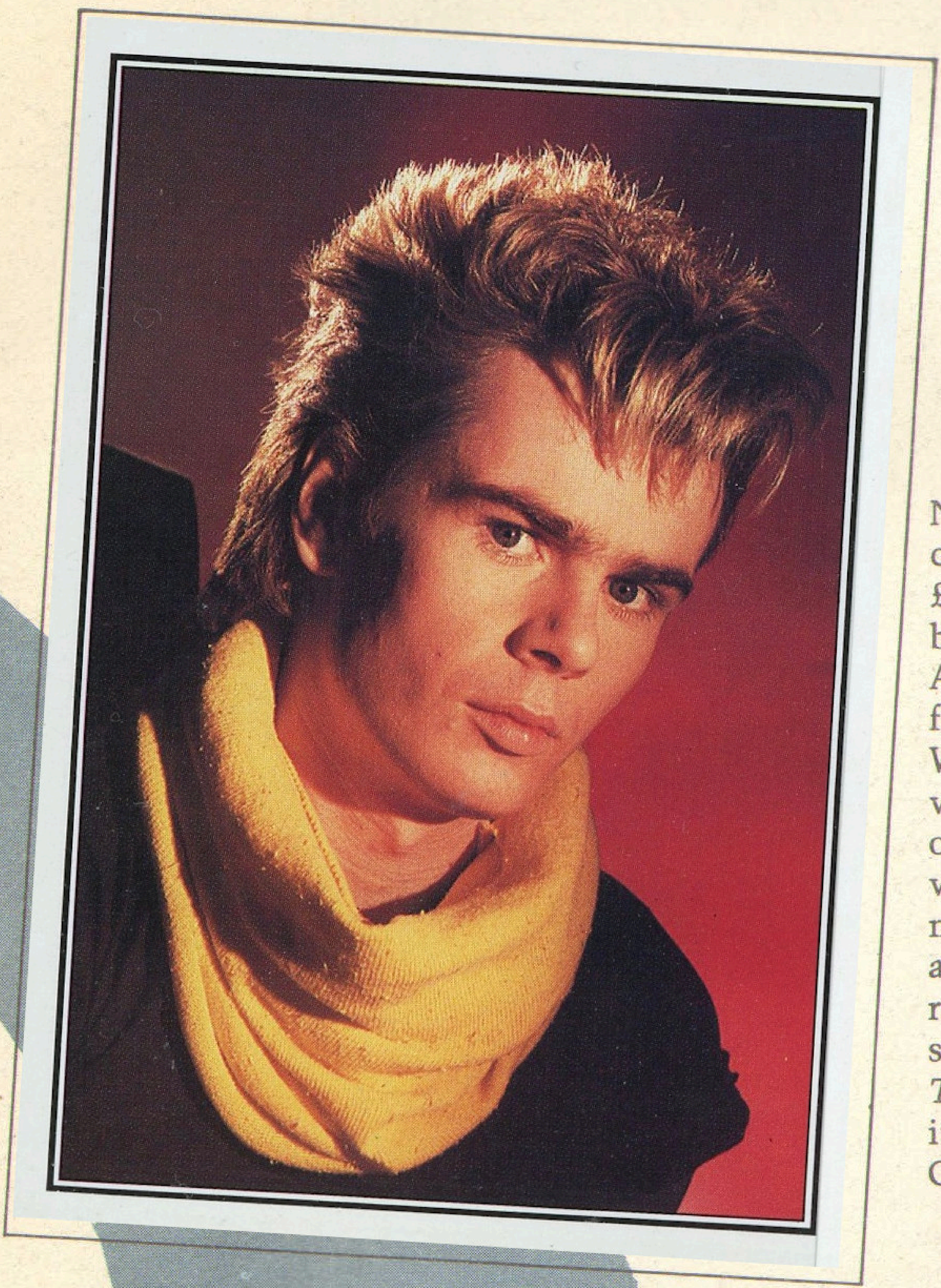


PHOTO: PETER ASHWORTH

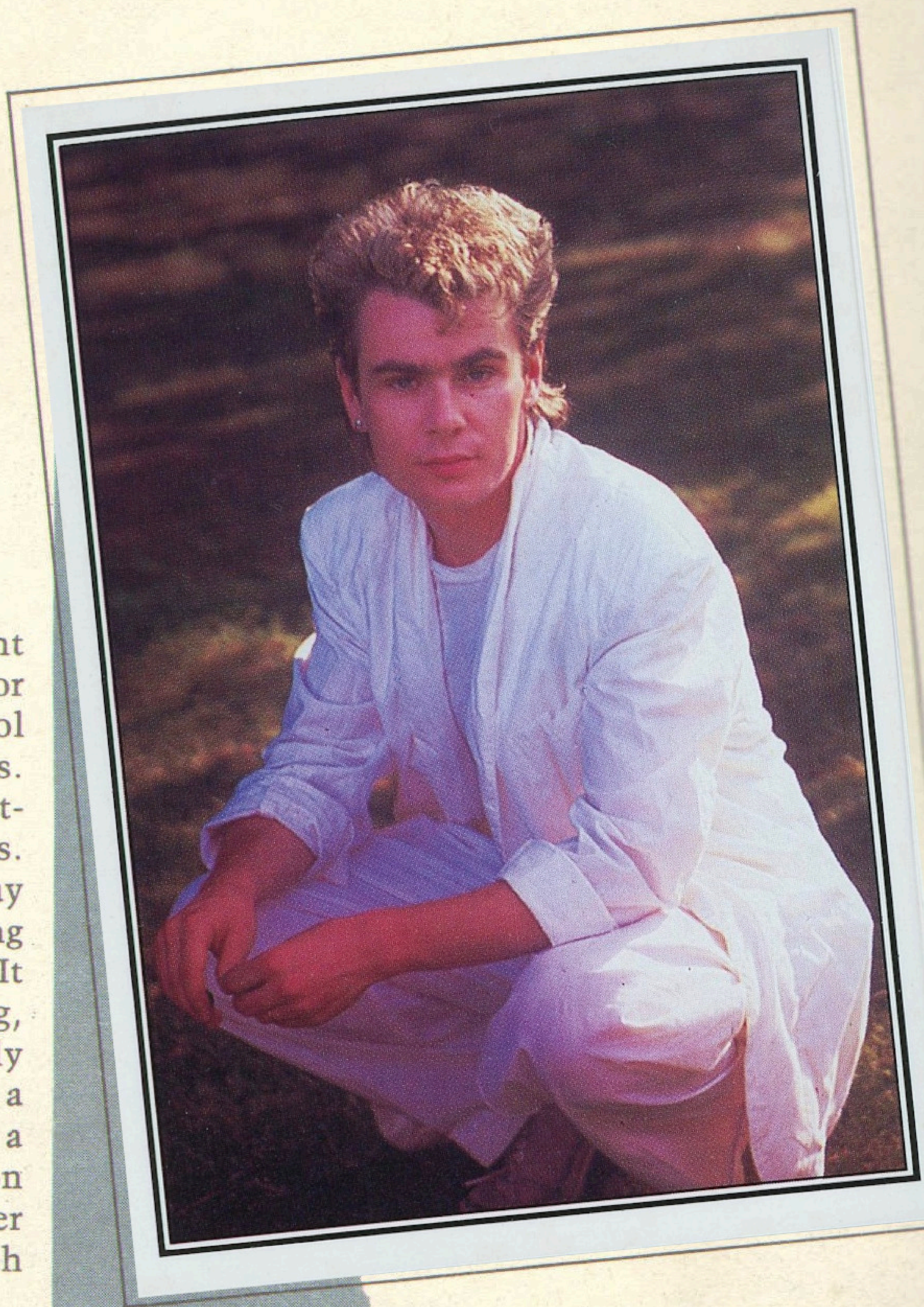
## Elton John



ELTON JOHN: born Reginald Dwight 25/3/47 in Pinner, Middlesex. 22 years later changed his name to Elton John and embarked on fantastically successful '70s career as pianist and songwriter. In the '80s revitalised his career, adopted Watford Football Club and surprised the world by getting married. And he's still thoroughly nice and very rich.



## Nik Kershaw



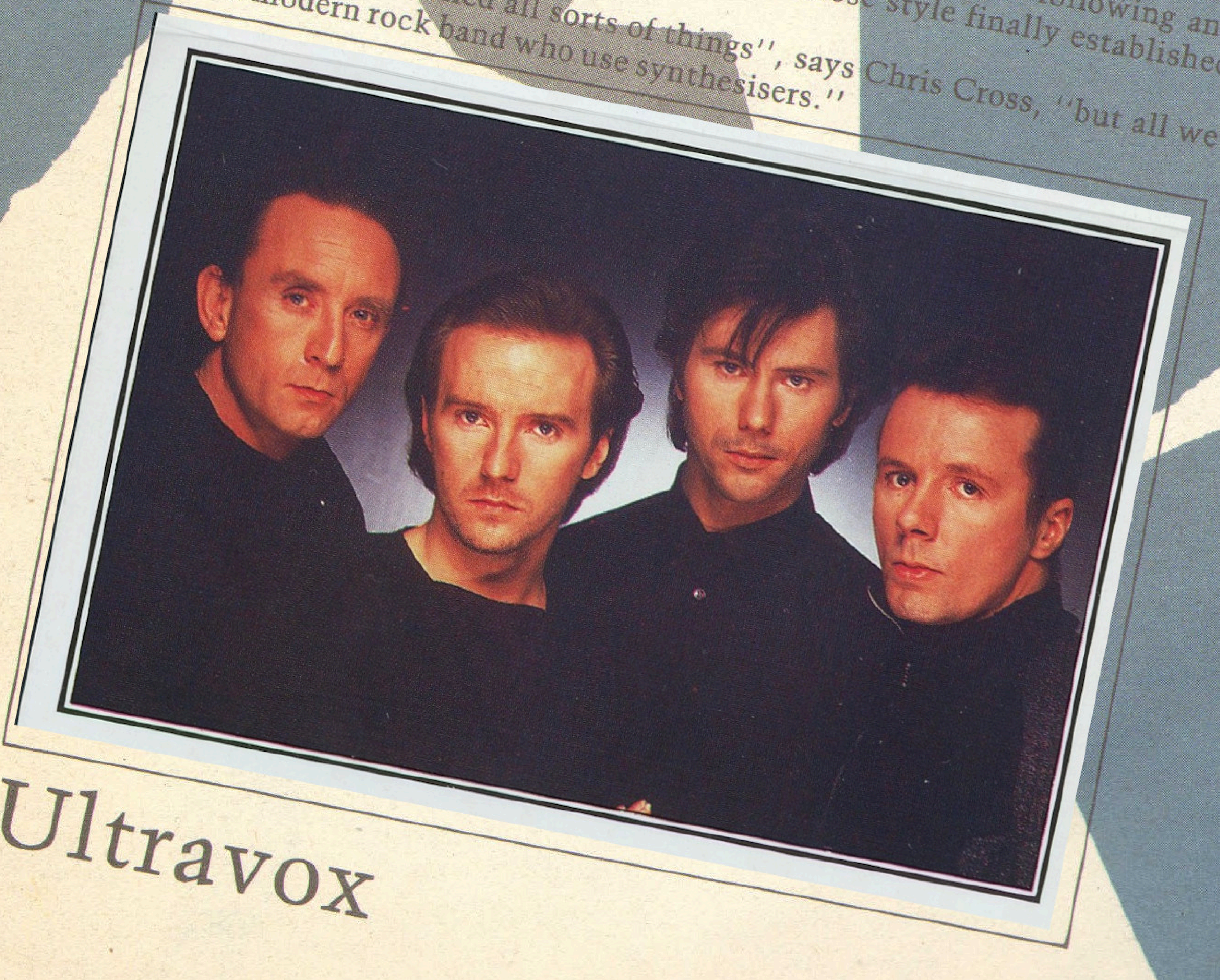
NIK KERSHAW: born 1/3/58 in Bristol but spent childhood years in Ipswich. Acquired first guitar for £20.00 at age of 16 and used it to audition for school band Half Pint Hogg who played Deep Purple covers. At this time sported waist-length hair, four inch platform shoes, vests with flared sleeves and loon pants. Went on to join jazz-funkers Fusion and slogged away while working in Department of Employment doling out Giro cheques or later in Co-op hardware store. It wasn't until 1984 that his talent for writing strong, melodic pop songs was noticed and success finally arrived. Remains very serious about his music and a reluctant pop-star. ''I only thought of myself as a song writer, then suddenly I look round and I'm on *Top Of The Pops.* I really didn't think I had whatever it takes . . .'' Down to earth, sensible type with Canadian wife Sheri.

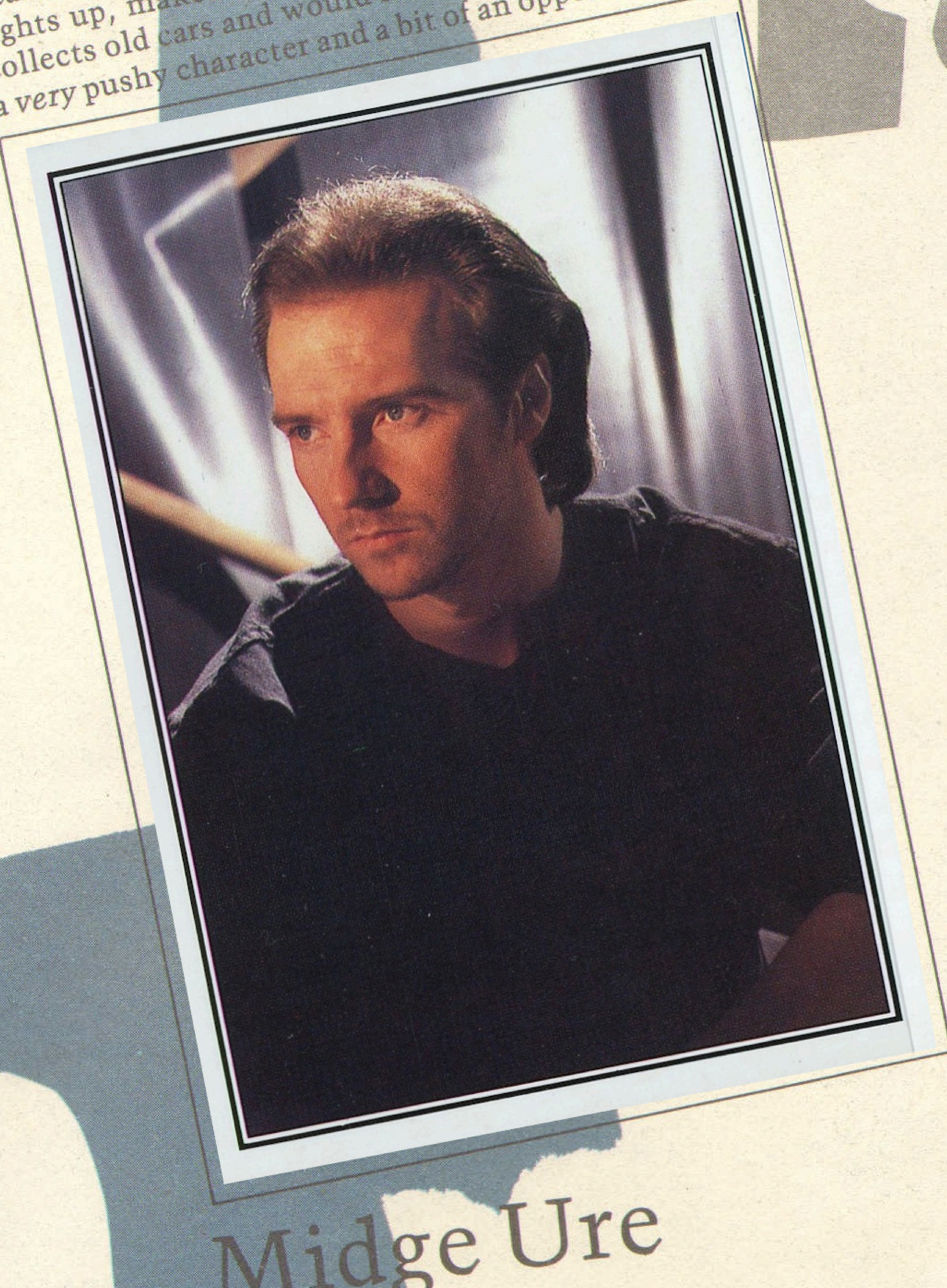
MIDGE URE: born 10/10/53. Apprentice engineer in Glasgow for two years. Prolific worker but rather academic in outlook – would rather go to a cinema than a club and thinks Wham! have set pop back ten years. Loves technology and junk – ''anything that lights up, makes a noise or bleeps.'' Hates shaving, collects old cars and would like to direct films. ''I'm a *very* pushy character and a bit of an opportunist.''

ULTRAVOX: the band had already been going for five years when Midge Ure joined the leaderless core of bassist Chris Cross (real name Christopher Allen), Canadian drummer Warren Cann and keyboard player Billy Currie in 1979. Led by the departed John Foxx, they'd made three albums and pioneered an electronic style that was years ahead of its time – only to find themselves without a record company, singer or guitarist.

Midge Ure, meanwhile, had come via one-hit teenybop wonders Slik, The Rich Kids and Thin Lizzy and was helping set up Visage. Currie was invited to join them and was so impressed with Ure that he asked him round to Ultravox rehearsals where they promptly wrote half of the ''Vienna'' album. Chrysalis signed them on the strength of their loyal following and then came ''Vienna'' whose sweeping, grandiose style finally established the group.

''We've been labelled all sorts of things'', says Chris Cross, ''but all we are is a modern rock band who use synthesisers.''





## Ultravox

## Midge Ure



PHOTO: RETNA

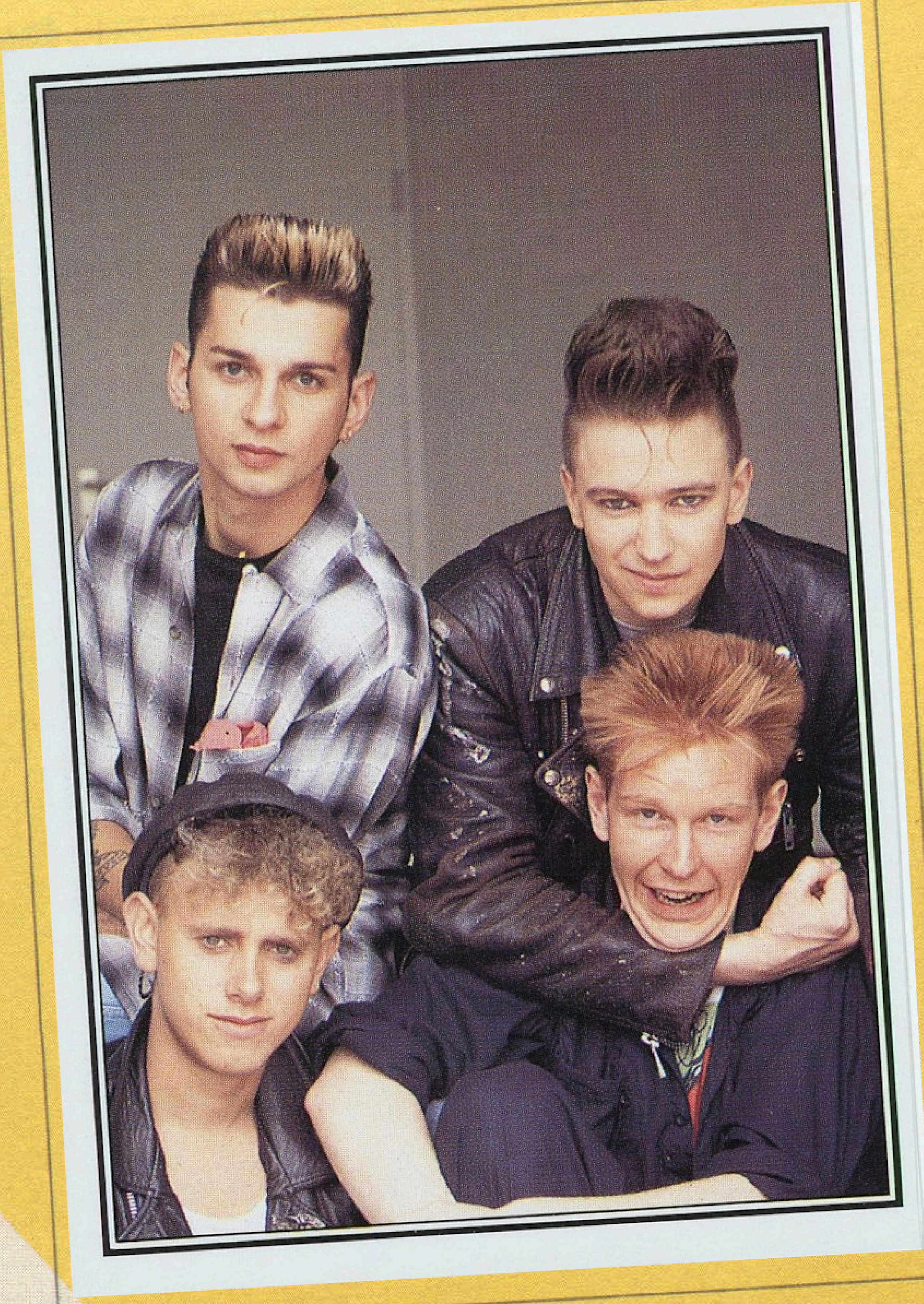


PHOTO: RETNA

DEPECHE MODE: the nucleus of the original band – Andy Fletcher, Martin Gore and Vince Clarke – got together in Basildon. Originally Andy and Martin played guitars which they swapped for synths when Dave Gahan joined as singer. The name Depeche Mode was taken from a French fashion magazine (it means ''speedy fashion''). Mute Records' Daniel Miller saw them live and offered to record them. Within a couple of months their second single ''New Life'' was in the charts. A series of catchy synth-pop singles consolidated their position until main songwriter Vince Clarke, unhappy with the pressures of success, left and later formed Yazoo. Martin Gore took over songwriting, Alan Wilder (formerly with pop-rock band The Hitmen) joined through a music paper advert and the band confounded the critics by going from strength to strength. Now processing over half their instrumentation and other sounds through a computer, the current line-up has grown considerably in both musical and lyrical maturity.

Managerless even now, the band share the business responsibilities. Dave deals with the bank (Barclays in Basildon) and merchandising. Alan, even-tempered and the most sophisticated of the group, deals with the correspondence. Fletch, a joker who went to school with Alison Moyet, sorts out the VAT and handles the music publishing side and the band's booking agents. Martin, who shares a flat in Berlin with his German girlfriend Christina and has a weakness for Dutch Grolsch beer, writes the songs and isn't expected to do anything else!

## Depeche Mode

DAVE GAHAN: born 9/5/62. Had never lasted more than a couple of weeks in any job when auditioned for band by singing Bowie's ''Heroes''. Moodiest member of Depeche Mode, sits by himself at back of tour bus and gets nervous before concerts. Energetic, sexy performer. Relaxed and friendly afterwards, but says of touring that ''you can get quite lonely really''. Hobby is fishing.



## Dave Gahan

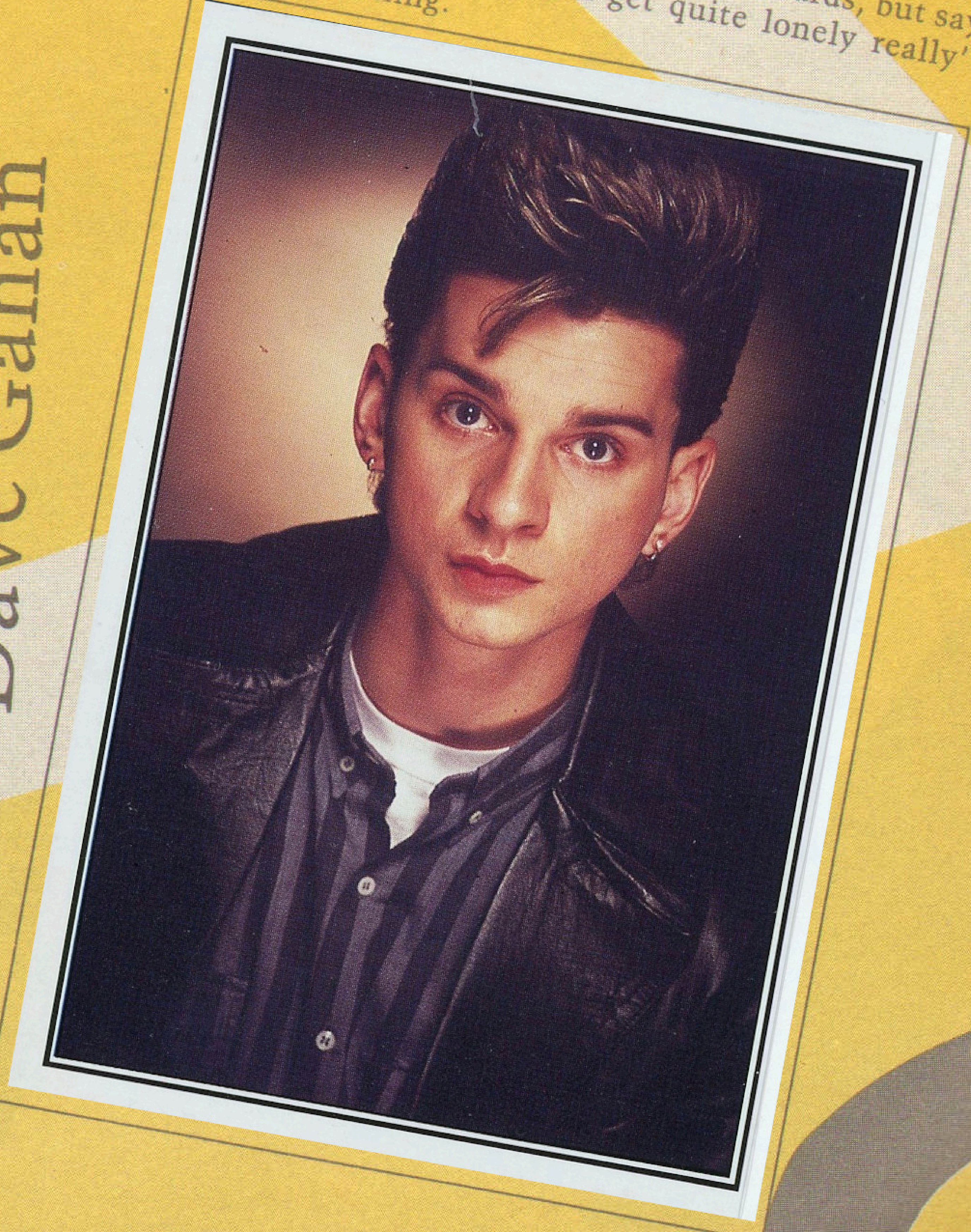


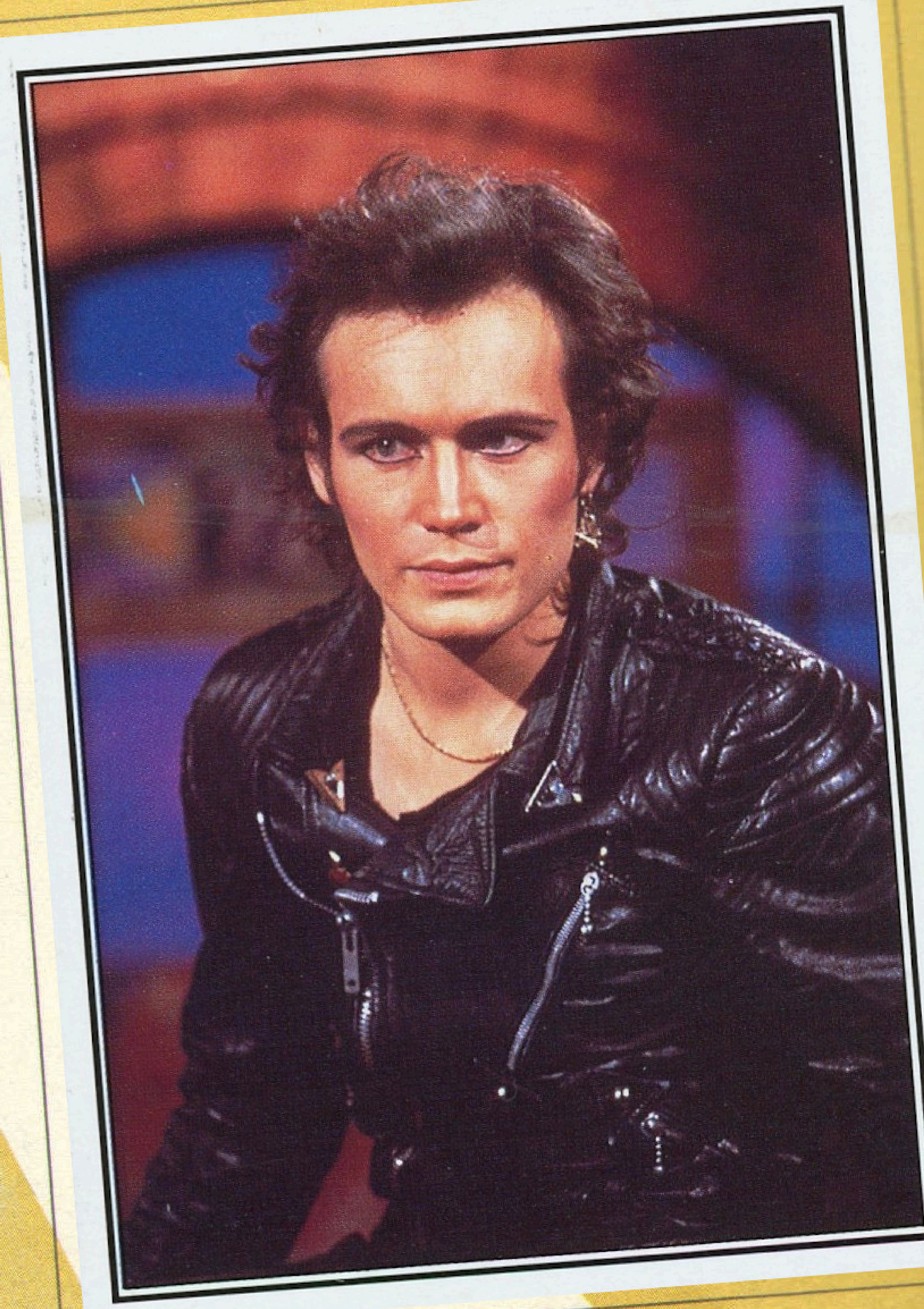
PHOTO: RETNA

# Nick Heyward



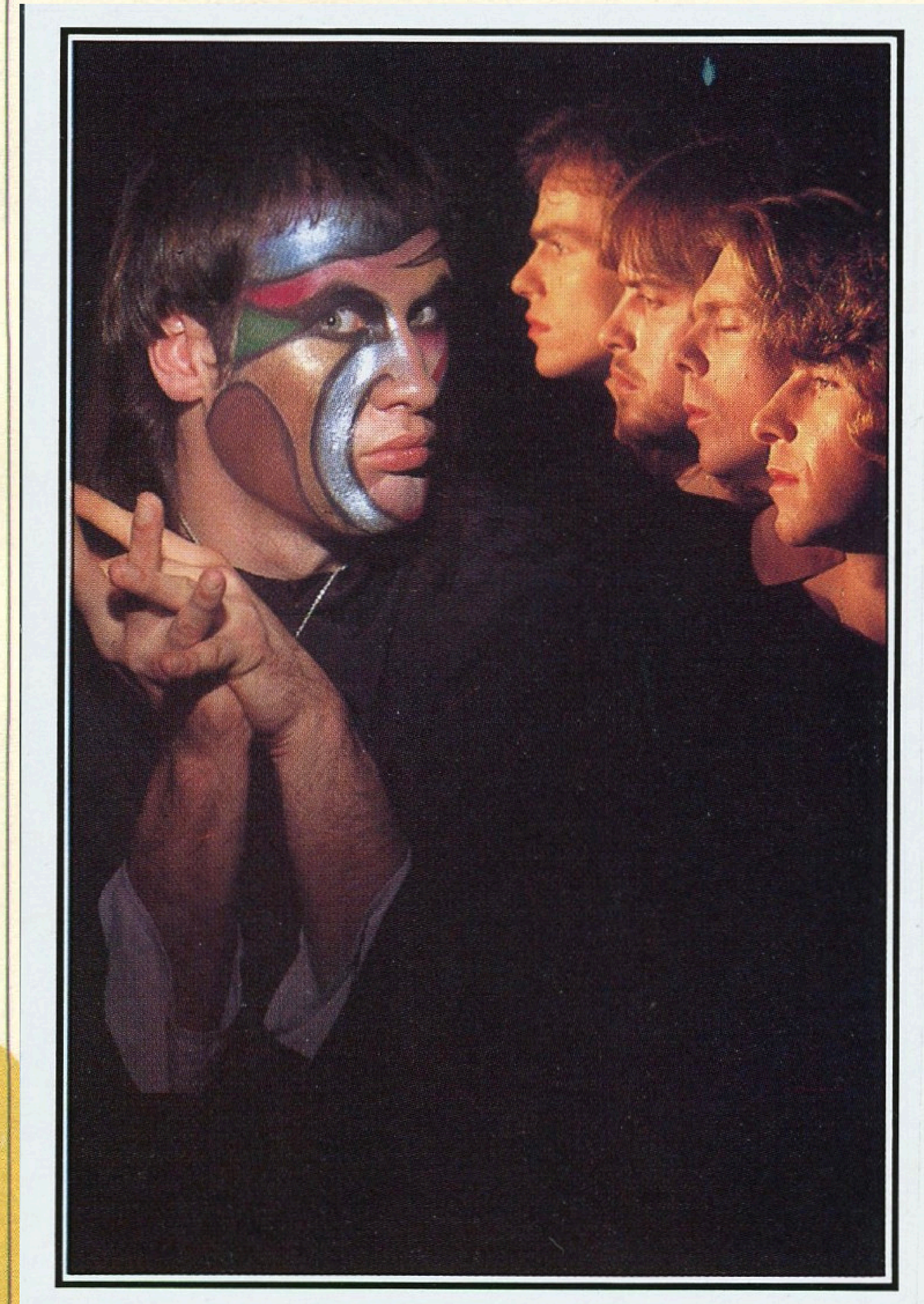
NICK HEYWARD: born 20/6/61 in Beckenham, Kent. As graphic designer in commercial art, worked on sleeve for The Jam's "In The City". Singer, guitarist and songwriter for teeny-funk idols Haircut 100, split from group in 1983 for less poppy solo career. Recently moved into posh Knightsbridge flat. Favourite present from fan – a Japanese lighter that explodes snow into people's faces.

# Adam Ant



ADAM ANT: born 3/11/54. First Adam And The Ants appeared in '77, equipped with kilts, leather and faintly kinky songs. Re-emerged with glam-rock cocktail of pirate/red Indian/highwayman look and tub-thumping tribal backbeat to become (briefly) huge pop star. Bubble burst with pantomime Prince Charming look, but had modest success in the States.

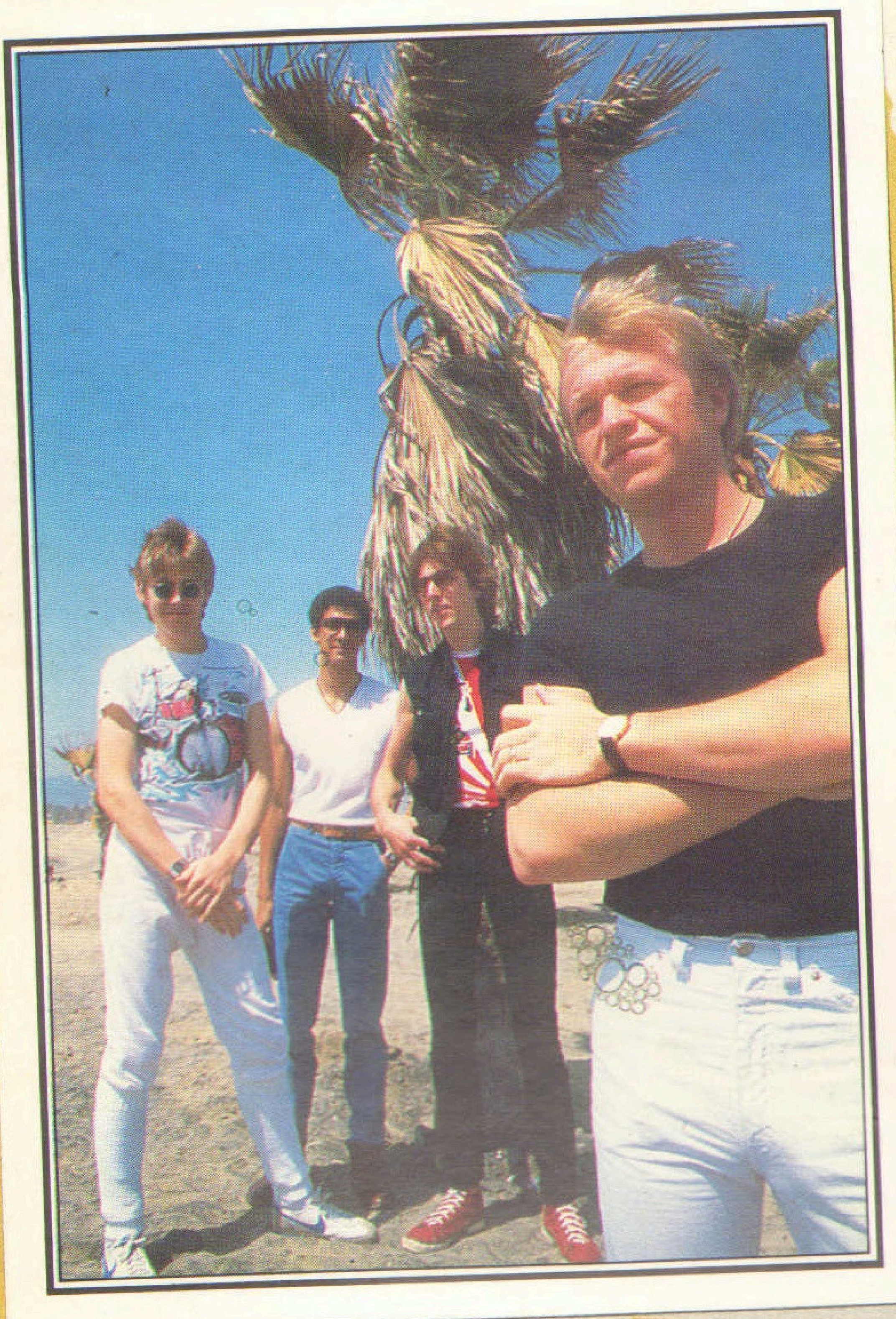
# Marillion



MARILLION: rock quintet led by Scottish former woodcutter Fish, whose early Genesis-inspired "progressive" work-outs have earned them devoted following among those seeking songs of substance that don't rely on image or studio gimmickry. Band name taken from Tolkien novel. Firm believer in whisky and porridge, Fish is a campaigner: "people are listening to music for its own sake again."

# Level 42

LEVEL 42: formed in London in 1979. Brothers Boon (guitar) and Phil (drums) Gould and bassist Mark King (former milkman who dressed as cowboy during his round – "I wanted to be somebody") all from Isle of Wight. Londoner Mike Lindup had been studying instruments since age 6. Very musicianly but hard, energetic performances. Lyricist Phil a member of militant ecologists Greenpeace.



# Alison Moyet

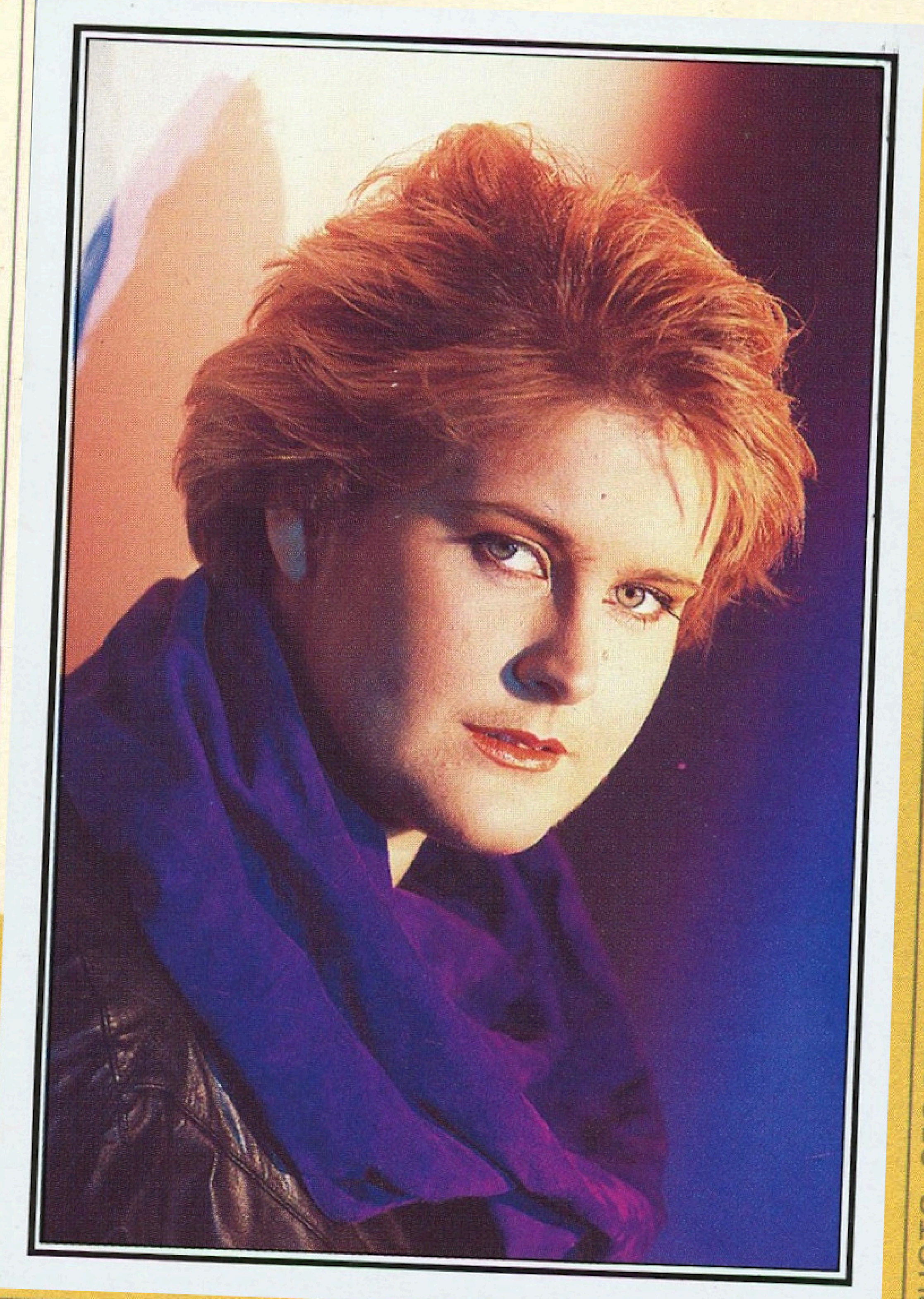


PHOTO: CBS RECORDS

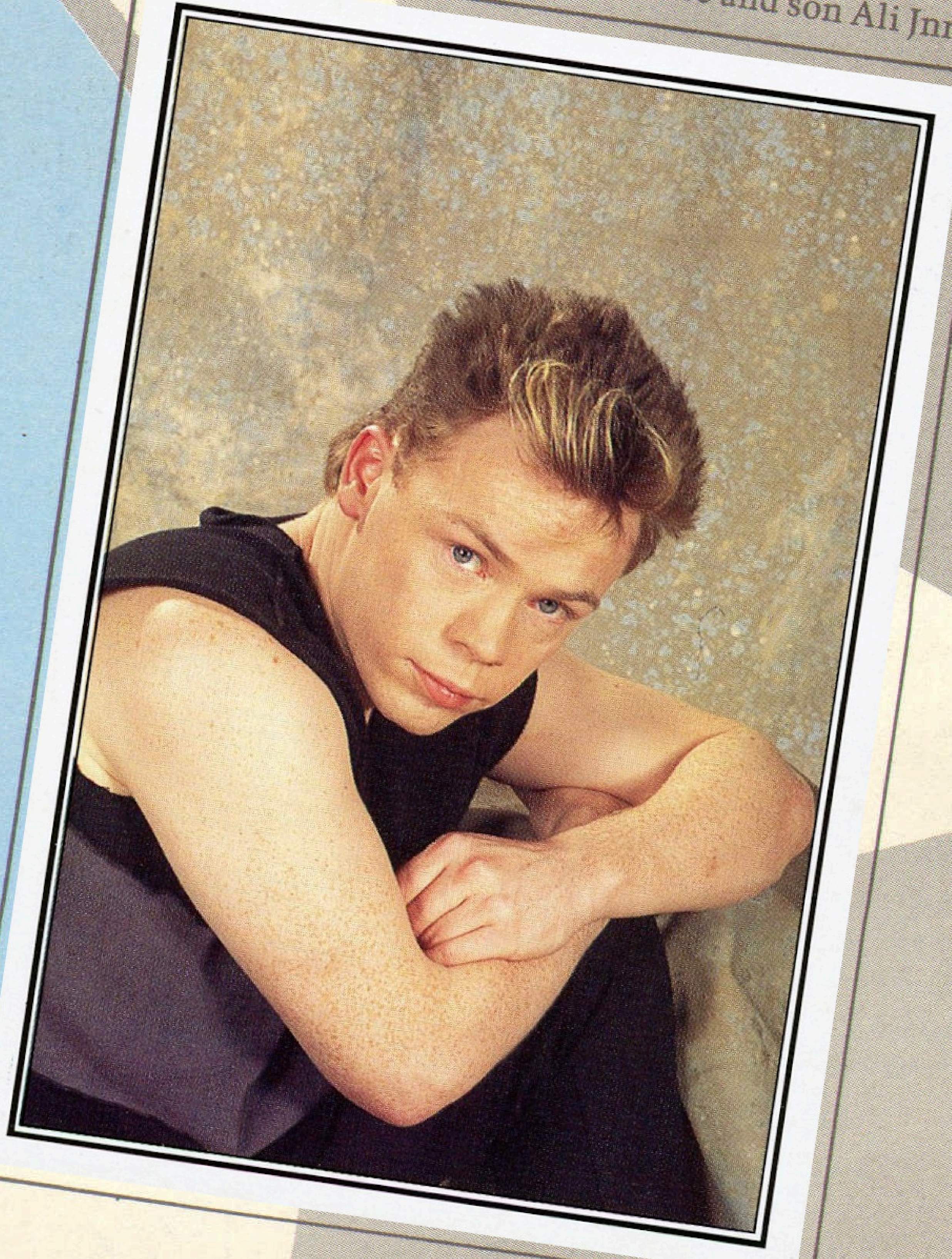
ALISON MOYET: born 18/6/61. Sang in r'n'b bands around Southend until Vince Clarke (fresh from Depeche Mode) asked her to record "Only You". Yazoo made two albums before splitting due to musical stagnation. After long rest, smooth but very successful solo album "Alf" released, co-written and produced by Swain & Jolley. Sensible and good fun, married childhood sweetheart Malcolm.



## UB40

ALI CAMPBELL: born 15/2/59. Founded UB40 with Earl Falconer and Jim Brown in summer of 1978. The band's main singer, writes melodies for older brother Robin's lyrics – they once dreamed of being Britain's answer to Jackson Five! Band's reluctant heartthrob, he now shares flat ("it's like a hacienda – I knocked a few walls down and had white plaster put up everywhere") with girlfriend Bernadette and son Ali Jnr.

UB40: multicultural reggae band fronted by the Campbell brothers Robin and Ali. Took name from unemployment benefit card – now say the name is like "a rock around our necks". First single "Food For Thought"/"King" was the first single to reach Top 10 (March 1980) without backing of major record company. Left independent Graduate Records after anti-apartheid "Burden Of Shame" song was omitted from South African version of first LP "Signing Off". Steady but unspectacular career boosted in 1983 by "Labour Of Love" album, a celebration of the reggae/ska dance music of their youth. Followed this with excellent black and white film of the same name, masterminded by saxophonist Brian Travers, showing them dancing, arguing over girls and fighting with policemen in their native Birmingham. Have now set up own DEP International label there (in converted bacon factory), releasing singles by other reggae artists Echo Base, Winston Reedy and Mikey Dread.

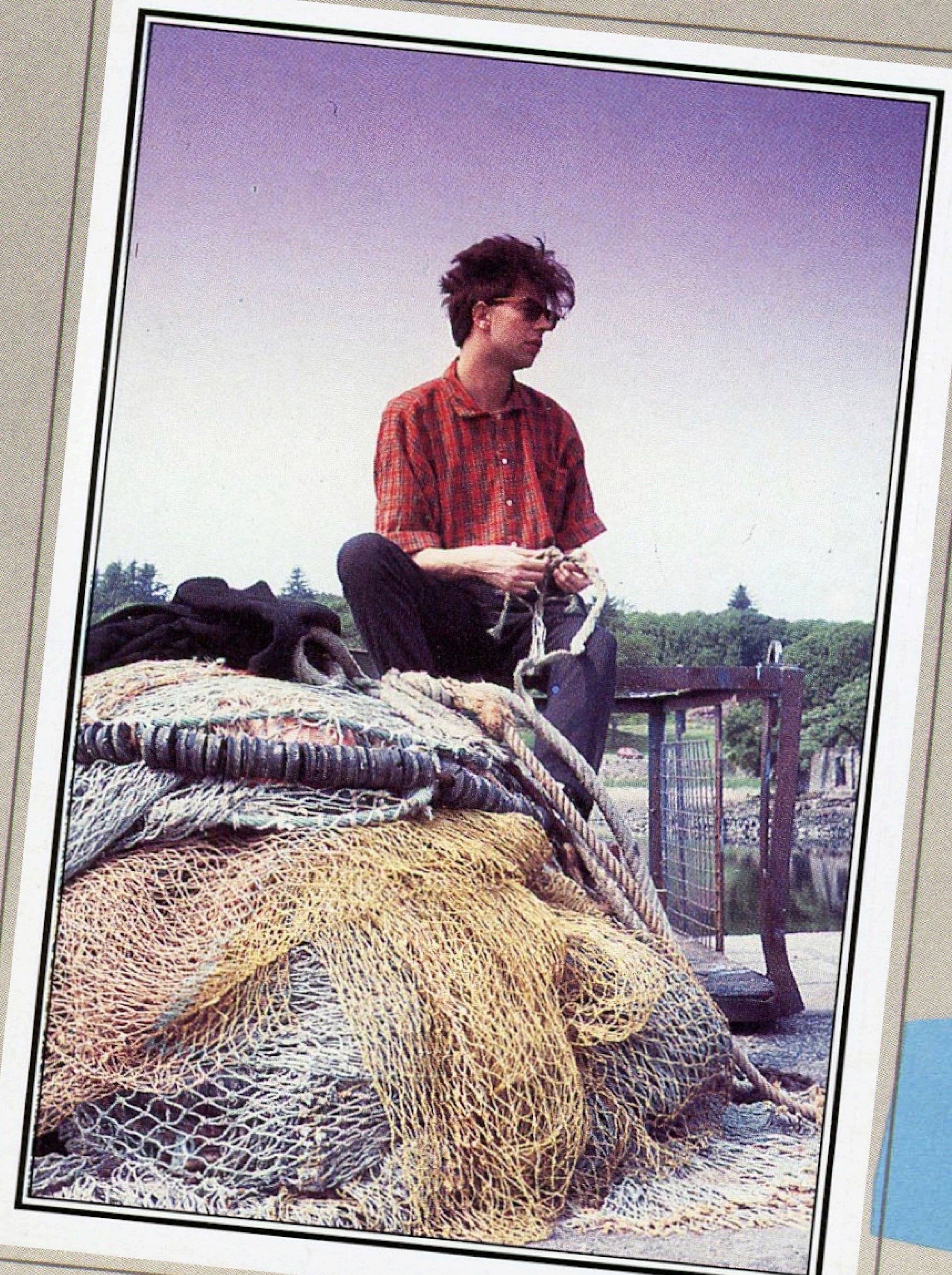


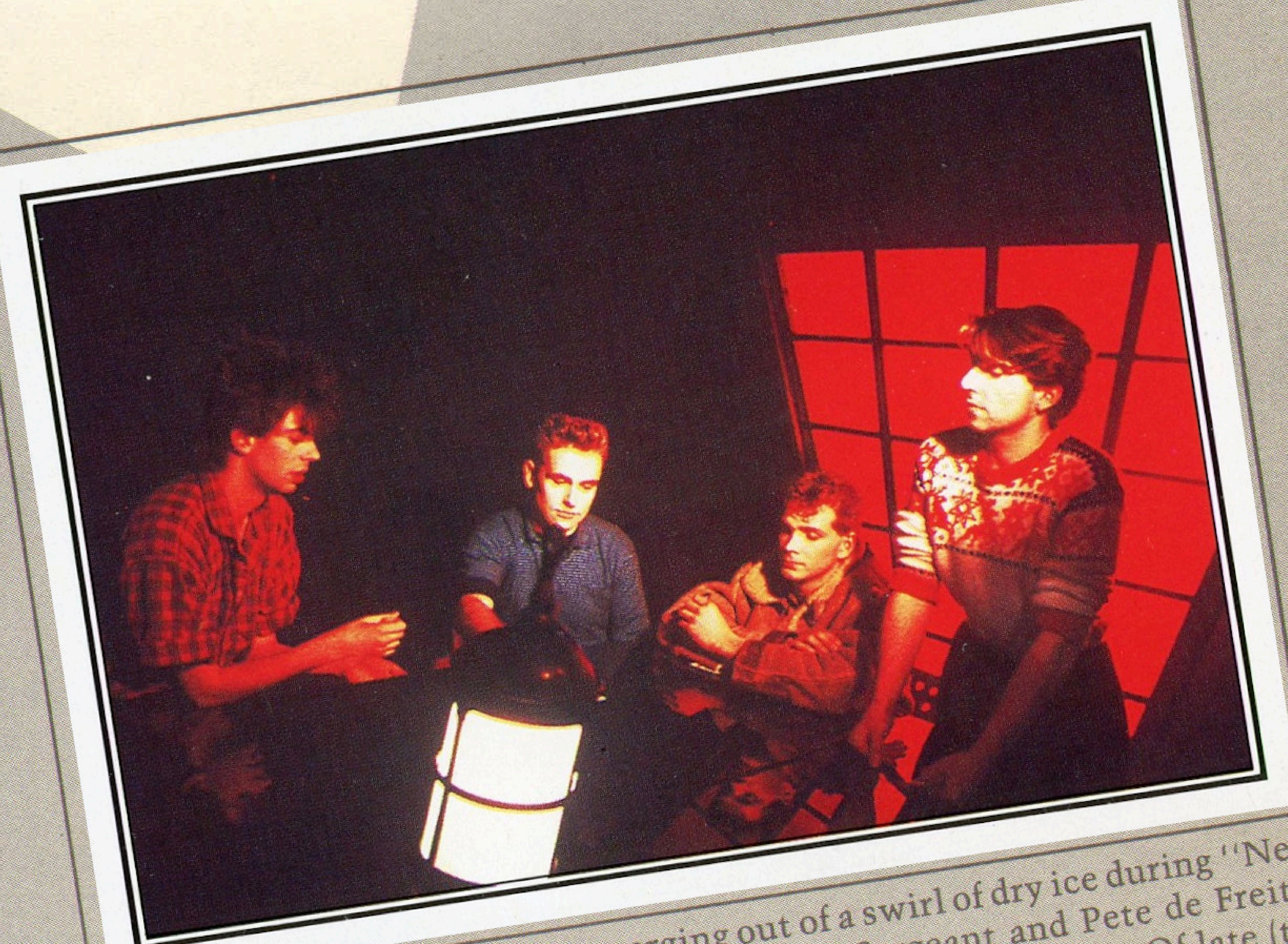
## Ali Campbell

## Echo And The Bunnymen

IAN McCULLOCH: born 5/5/59. "Mac The Mouth" – as he's now been dubbed – doesn't mince words. Outspoken, arrogant, sometimes obnoxious, always stubborn. Married to Lorraine Fox April 1982, he's a different man at home, going to the football (he supports Liverpool) or a drink with mates. Favourite singers: Jim Morrison, Jacques Brel.

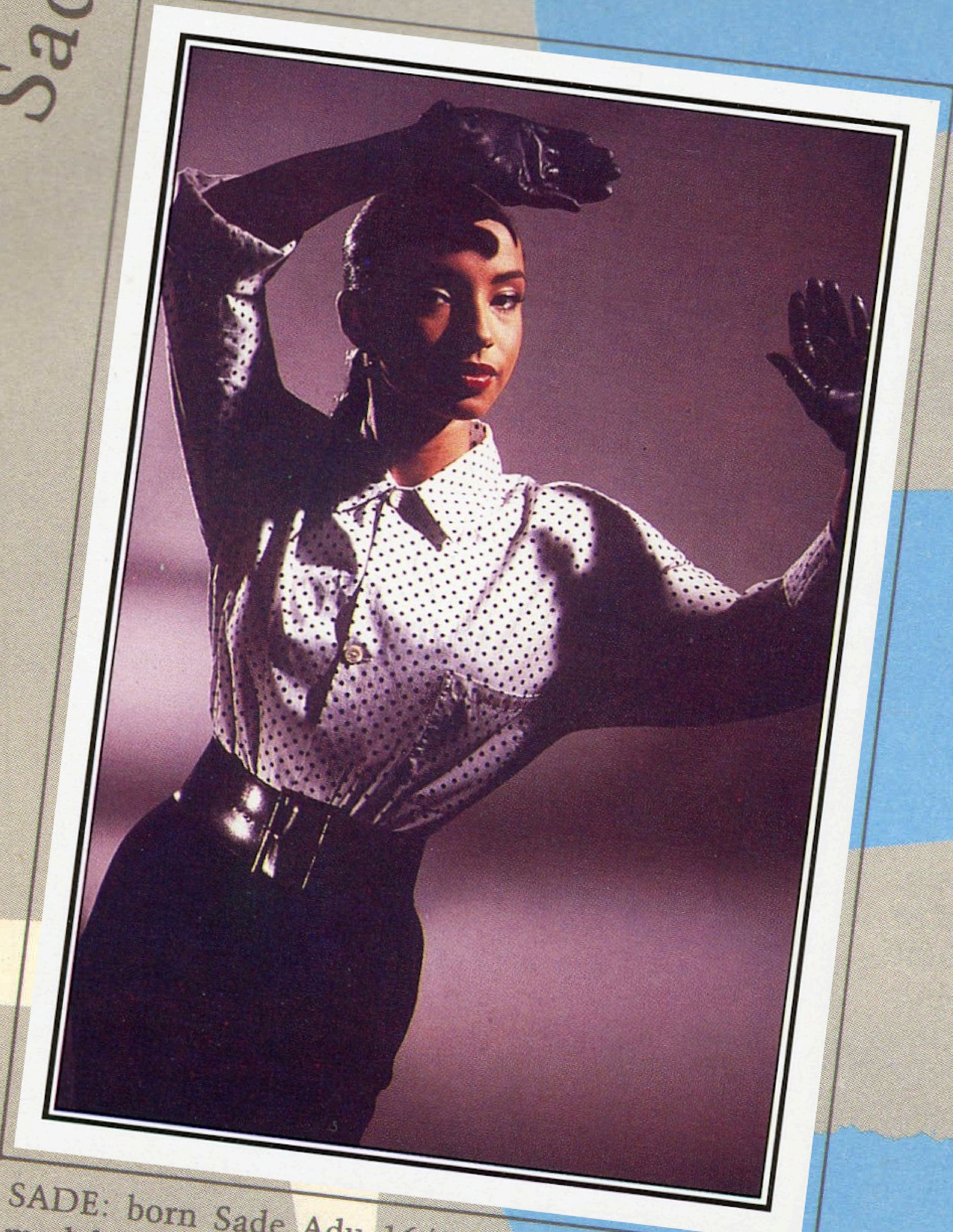
## Ian McCulloch





ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN: emerging out of a swirl of dry ice during "New Wave", Ian McCulloch, Les Pattinson, Will Sergeant and Pete de Freitas have made that special brand of doomy, gothic rock their own. Of late (the "Ocean Rain" album, their fourth) they've loosened up somewhat – wearing dresses, penguin outfits and fish heads in a video (for the single "Seven Seas") and smiling in photos . . . well, *one* photo. Last May they put on a Crystal Day in their home town of Liverpool – it incorporated breakfast at a celebrated local cafe, a ferry trip across the Mersey, a banana fight (unplanned) and a concert at the town hall. Late last year "Mac" released his first solo single, a cover of the classic "September Song" (made famous by Frank Sinatra). It flopped. This year the band were supposed to be taking a sabbatical but already they're back rehearsing and writing.

## Sade



SADE: born Sade Adu 16/1/60 in Nigeria. Former model and singer with London club band Pride, had instant success with first solo single, jazzy "Your Love Is King". First album, "Diamond Life", shot straight to No. 1 and went platinum. Sharp, stylish and sexual, loves cruising in her '50s car. Strong sense of humour and down to earth nature balance out aloof and sophisticated image.

## Van Halen



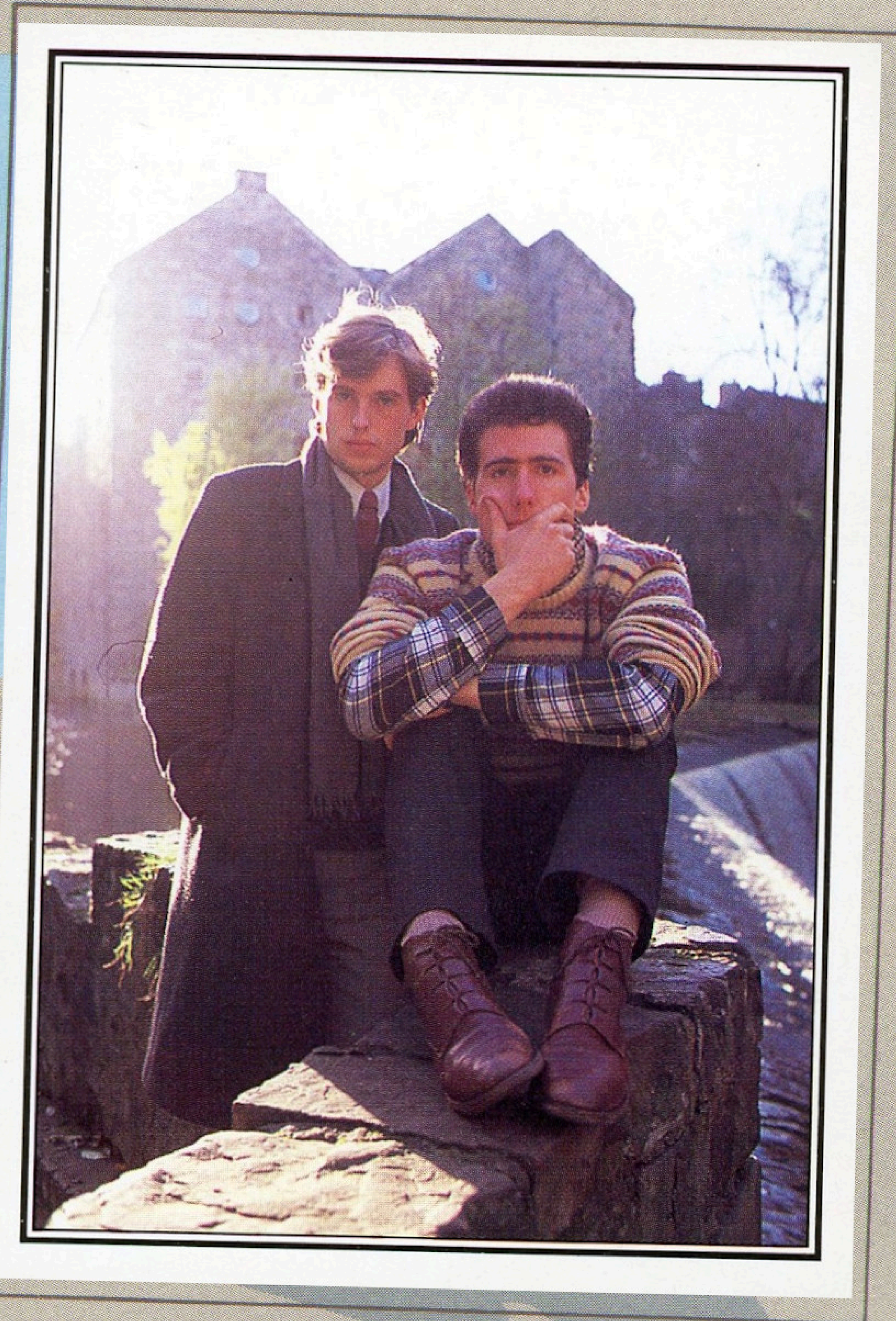
VAN HALEN: Alex and Edward Van Halen born 1½ years apart in Nijmegen, Holland. Moved to California around age 10. First band Mammoth. Outrageous singer Dave Lee Roth joined 1973, name changed to Van Halen. Reputation for excessive behaviour. Rough first album 1978, wider breakthrough with synth-based "Jump" and more melodic American rock. Eddie plays famous blistering guitar solo on Michael Jackson's "Beat It".

## OMD

PHIL COLLINS: born 31/1/51. A former child actor, Phil Collins became the drummer of Genesis in 1970 and their singer five years later. His solo LPs, singles ("Against All Odds" was a US number one) and production work (Frida of Abba, Adam Ant) have since established him both a megastar and a really "re-spected" musician and songwriter.



## Phil Collins



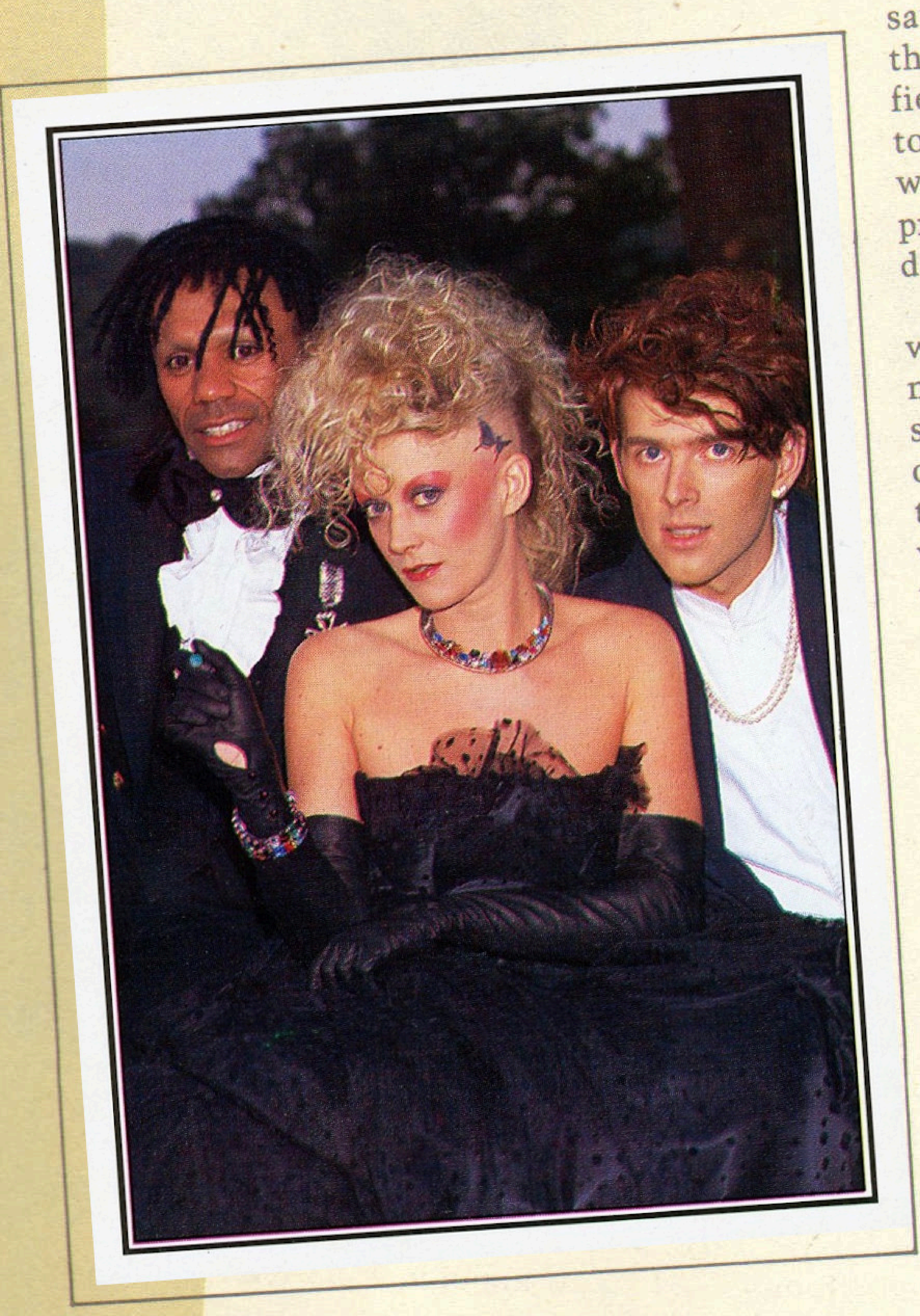
ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES IN THE DARK: central core of Paul Humphreys and Andy McCluskey, both 25 and from the Wirral. One of the first synthesiser bands, had stream of hits until 1983 "Dazzle Ships" LP when strong experimental streak finally overpowered their better judgement, though back towards form with "Junk Culture" album. Well dressed image disguises two ambitious and witty individuals. Paul is married to Maureen.

## Matt Bianco

MATT BIANCO: formed July 1982 by singer Mark Reilly and keyboard player Danny White, both refugees from failed salsa trendies Blue Rondo A La Turk; joined by Polish singer Basia. Took name as spoof on early '60s spy film characters. Had first hit in March 1984 with "Get Out Of Your Lazy Bed", followed by lean spell before becoming hip again with pleasing light jazz of "Half A Minute".



# Thompson Twins



THOMPSON TWINS: named after the bowler hatted detectives in Herge's *Tin Tin* cartoons, the band first saw the light of day in 1977 when Tom Bailey and three friends performed at a friend's party in Chesterfield. Moving to London, they expanded the line-up to seven and gained a strong reputation for live gigs at which audiences were invited to participate and improvise on percussion. The records, however, were distinctly uneven.

Among the newcomers to the band were Joe Leeway and fiery feminist Alannah Currie. Currie had met Leeway at a friend's dinner party and helped him start his own squat in the same Brixton street as her own. Bailey moved in shortly after. The three started their own dub and rap sideline called Chaos PA and when the old experimental line-up ground to a halt, the trio took over with the stated intention of creating music that would appeal to audiences all over the world regardless of cultural barriers.

The trio divided up the responsibilities into music, visuals and live shows, and gave themselves a year to do or die. Strong, sharp, simple pop was the result and ''In The Name Of Love'' gave them their first hit. The following voice/synth/percussion album ''Quick Step And Side Kick'' reached No. 2 and stayed in the charts for a year. 1984 saw the band underline their success with five British hits, a platinum disc for the more sophisticated ''Into The Gap'' album and extensive American touring.

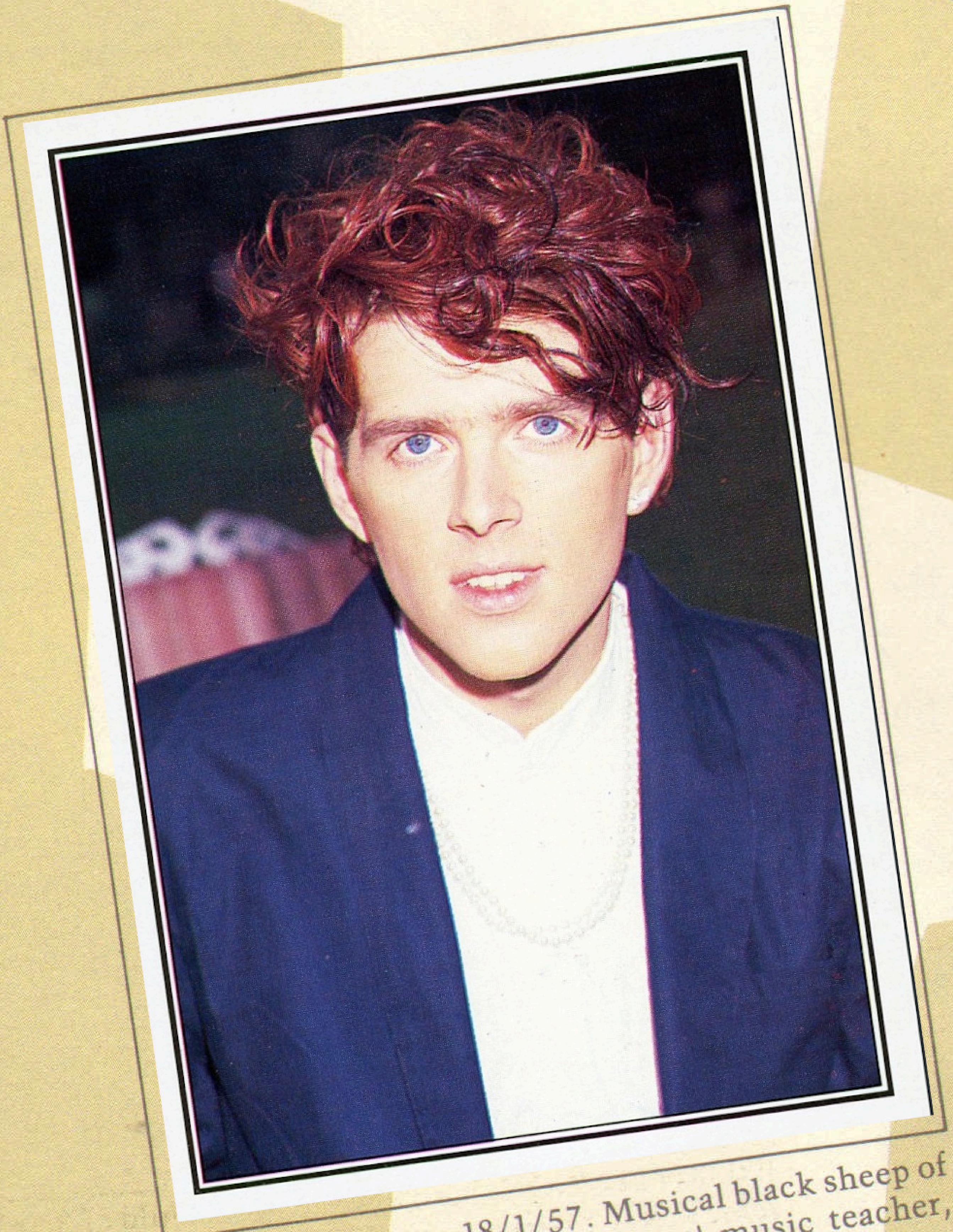
Private lives are kept very private. ''We don't have any personal lives,'' they only half-joke. ''We're married to each other!''

JOE LEEWAY: born 15/11/57. Mother Irish, father Nigerian. Fostered out to elderly white couple in Kent. Former actor and director of Monday night Youth Theatre at London's Young Vic Theatre. Joined original band in 1980 as roadie. Stagecraft ideas crucial to live show. Plays keyboards, bass and percussion. Sees himself as catalyst for ideas in three way chemistry.



## Joe Leeway

## Tom Bailey



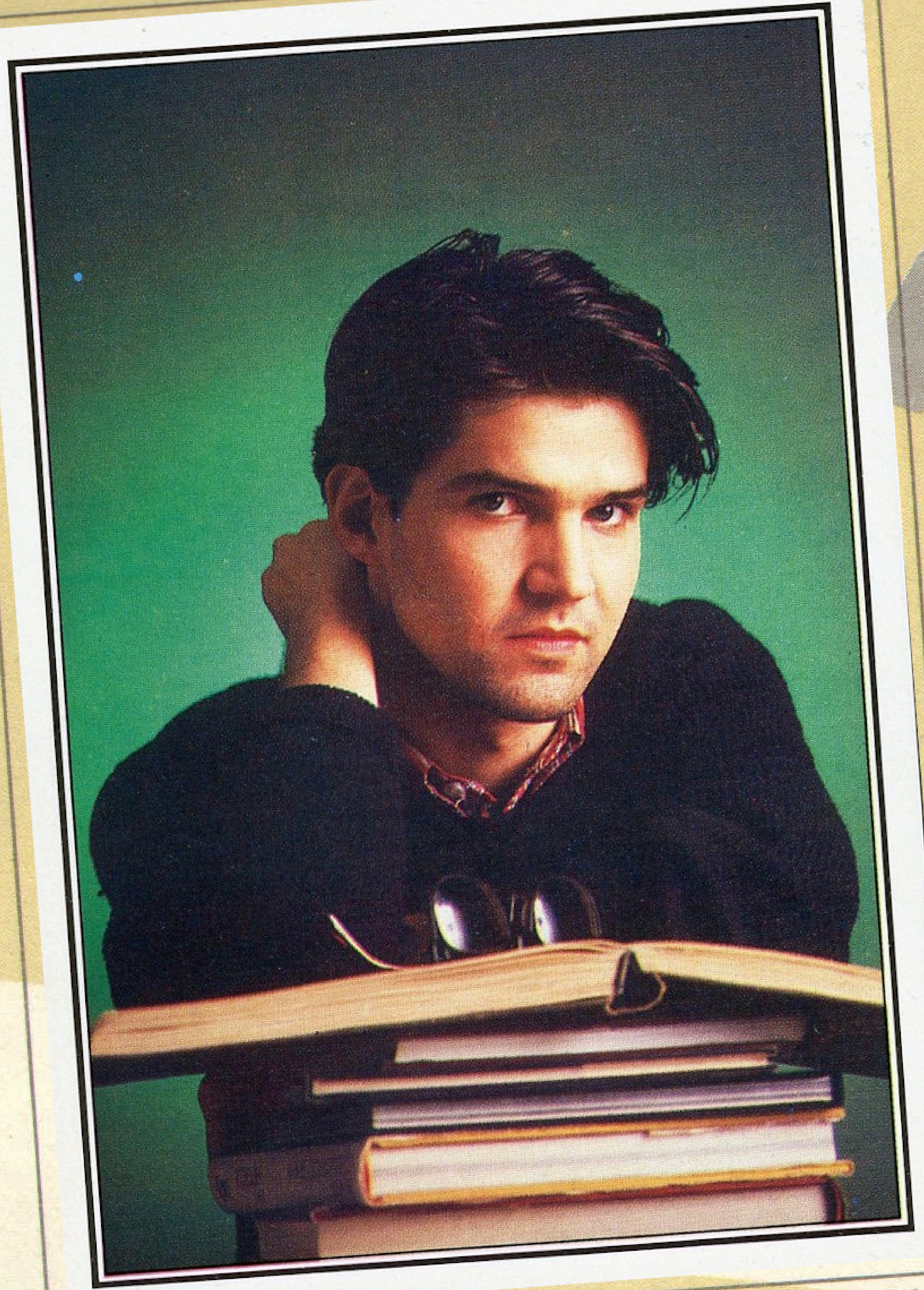
TOM BAILEY: born 18/1/57. Musical black sheep of medical family. Former (reluctant) music teacher, now arranges band's music. Fascinating to talk to, with wide range of knowledge from killer sharks to madness, theatre to world cultures, and exhausting to argue with, due to clearsighted intellect. Calm and collected, interested in spiritual matters and vegetarian. ''Take me to an Indian restaurant and I'm yours!''

ALANNAH CURRIE: born 20/9/59 in Auckland, New Zealand. Came to London at 18 after hearing about punk. Joined Thompson Twins in 1981. Previous jobs: waitress, journalist, packing hats. Writes lyrics, plays percussion, looks after visuals. Came up with decadent satin and pearls look after seeing painting of opium den.



## Alannah Currie

## Lloyd Cole And The Commotions



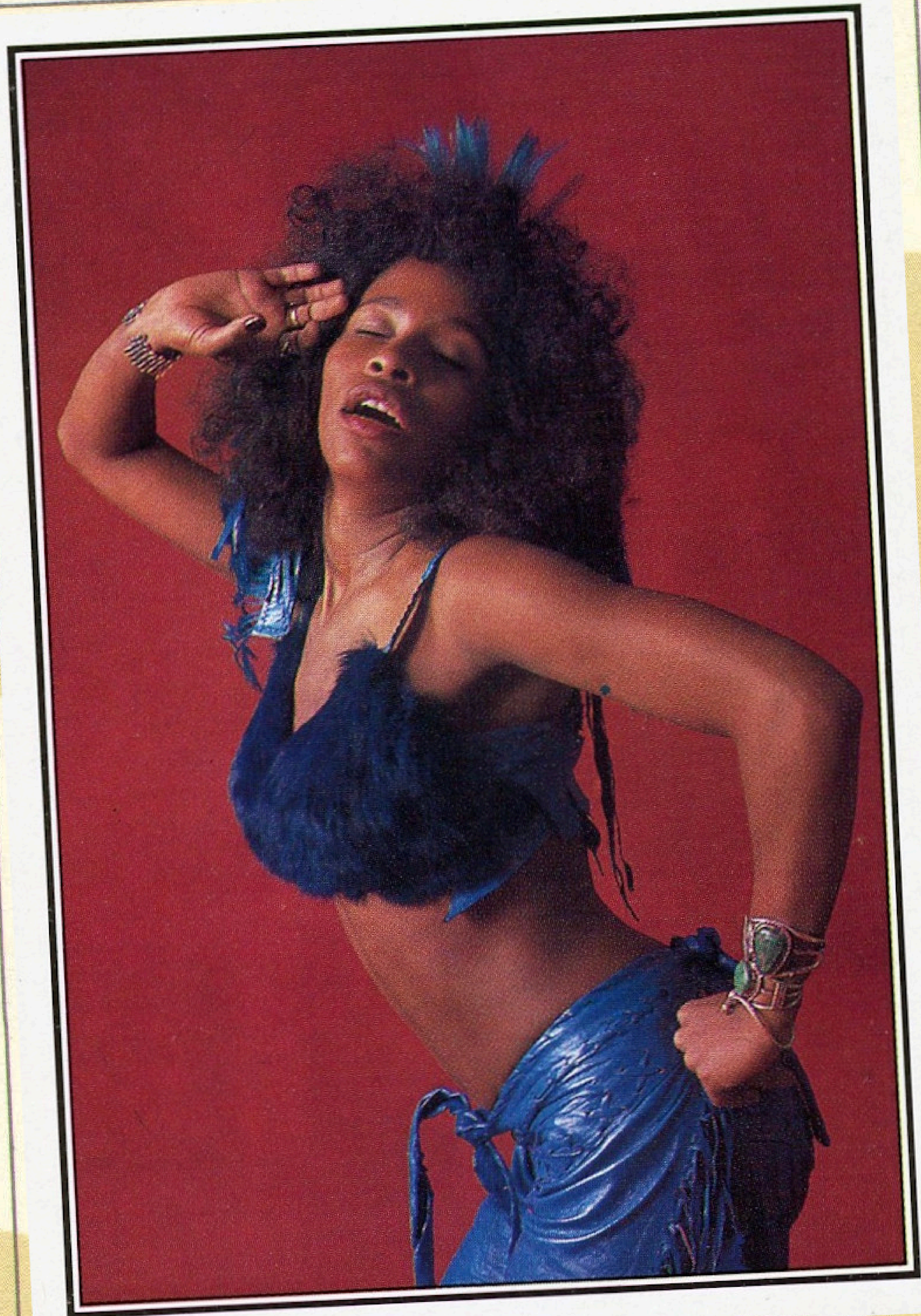
LLOYD COLE & THE COMMOTIONS: born 31/1/61. Inspired by T Rex at age of 12, Lloyd Cole dropped out of Glasgow University to form the Commotions in early 1983. Had first hit with "Perfect Skin" in July 1984, which Lloyd thought improved the charts – "I feel our role is to point out how bad other groups are". A literary character, he'd like to be "someone fans could have a natter with about the latest novel they're reading".

## Status Quo



STATUS QUO: group, all from South London, formed 22 years ago as The Spectres. First hit in 1968 with psychedelic "Pictures Of Matchstick Men". Francis Rossi: "I wrote half of it while the wife was out shopping and then finished it off in the loo." Later rejected pop for famous denims and heads down boogie style. Gave up touring last year.

## Chaka Khan



CHAKA KHAN: born 23/3/53 in Chicago. Started singing at 16, joined Rufus and had 1972 hit with Stevie Wonder's "Tell Me Something Good". Started parallel solo career in 1979. Mixes rock, jazz and funk but went commercial with Grandmaster Melle Mel rap for 1984 smash "I Feel For You" (a Prince song). Son Damien (5). Name translates from African as "fire, war and colour red".

## Julian Lennon

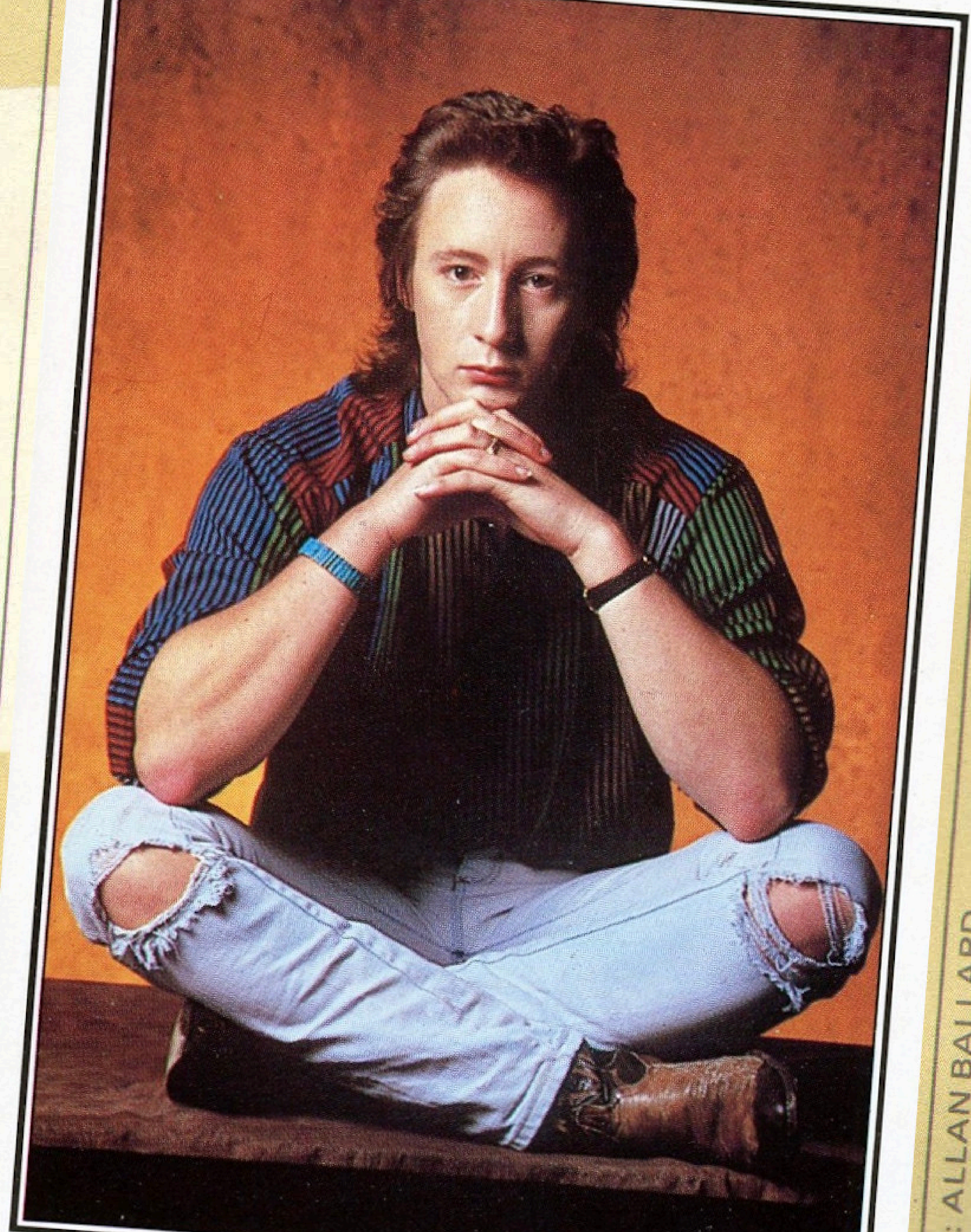


PHOTO: ALLAN BALLARD

JULIAN LENNON: born 8/4/63, only child of Beatle John's first marriage (to Cynthia). Can be heard at end of father's 1974 LP "Walls And Bridges" when aged 11. Despite inevitable scepticism, achieved considerable initial success with own solo career. Old fashioned both in dress sense and musically – hates people like Frankie who "don't play on their records. When I hear them I just go 'yeeuuggh . . .'".

## Z.Z. Top

Z. Z. TOP: formed in 1970 by Texans Billy Gibbons (guitar), Dusty Hill (bass) and Frank Beard (drums). Describing themselves as "a little ol' boogie band from Texas" – toured constantly – sometimes sharing stage with live rattlesnakes and buffalo – becoming major rock stadium attraction. Noted for absurd sense of humour, sizzling concise boogie and grotesquely long beards.

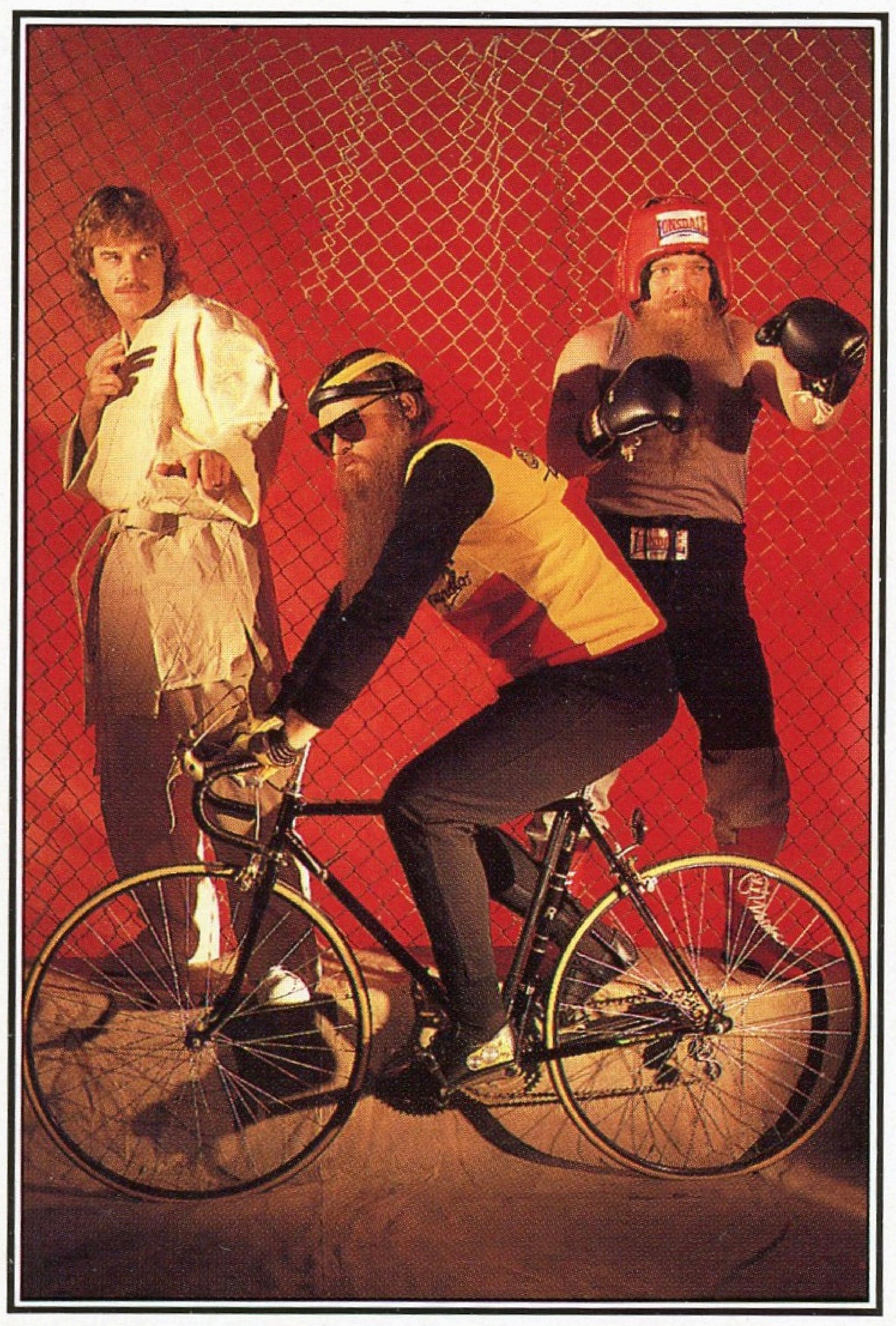
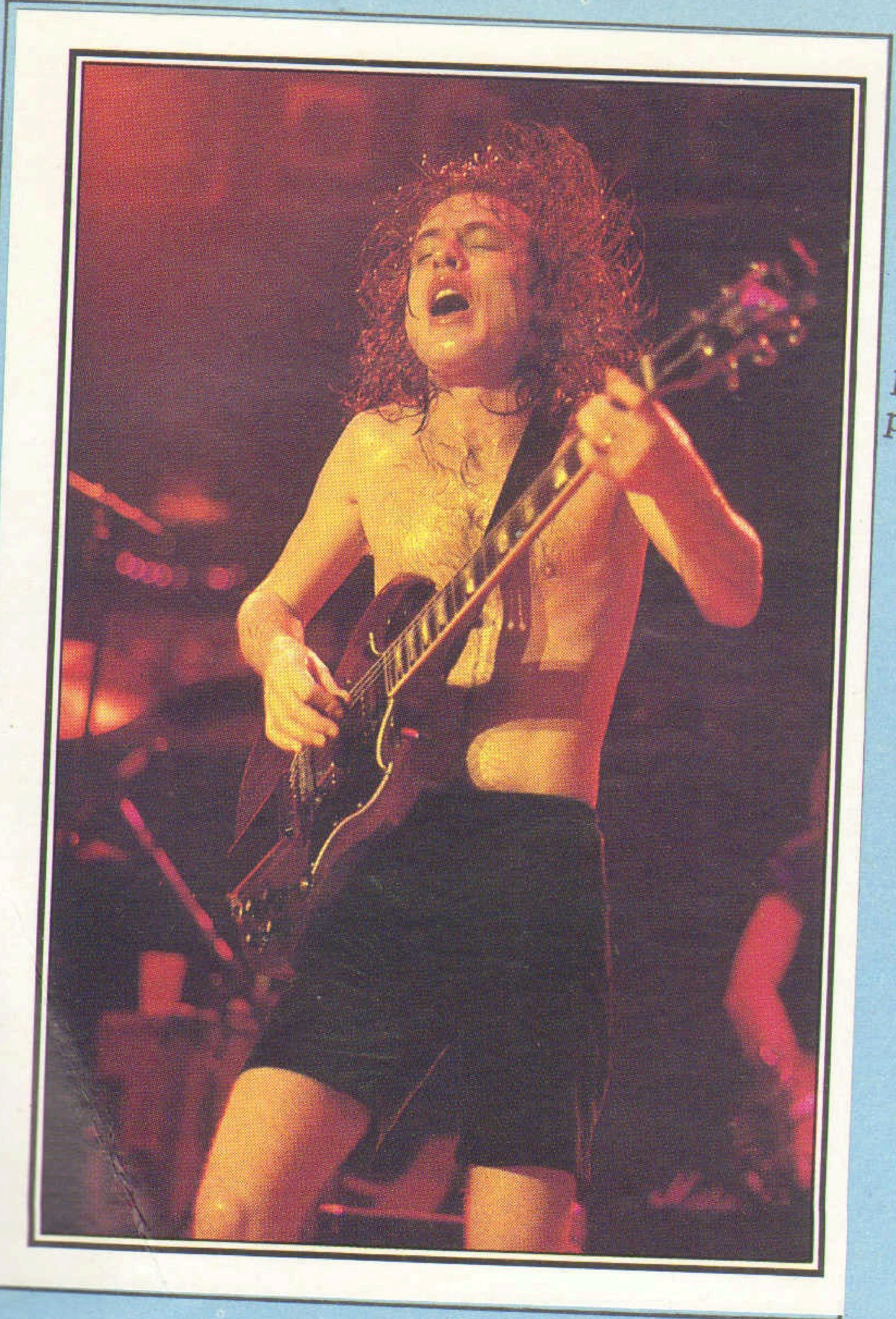


PHOTO: RETNA



## AC/DC

AC/DC: formed 1974 in Australia by Scottish-born brothers Angus and Malcolm Young. Bassist Cliff Williams, vocalist Brian Johnson and bassist Simon Wright complete current line-up. Scorned by critics but loved by headbangers around the world for their frenzied heavy rock and Angus's demented schoolboy antics. Blood and thunder style particularly popular in America where albums go multi-platinum.

## Dalis Car

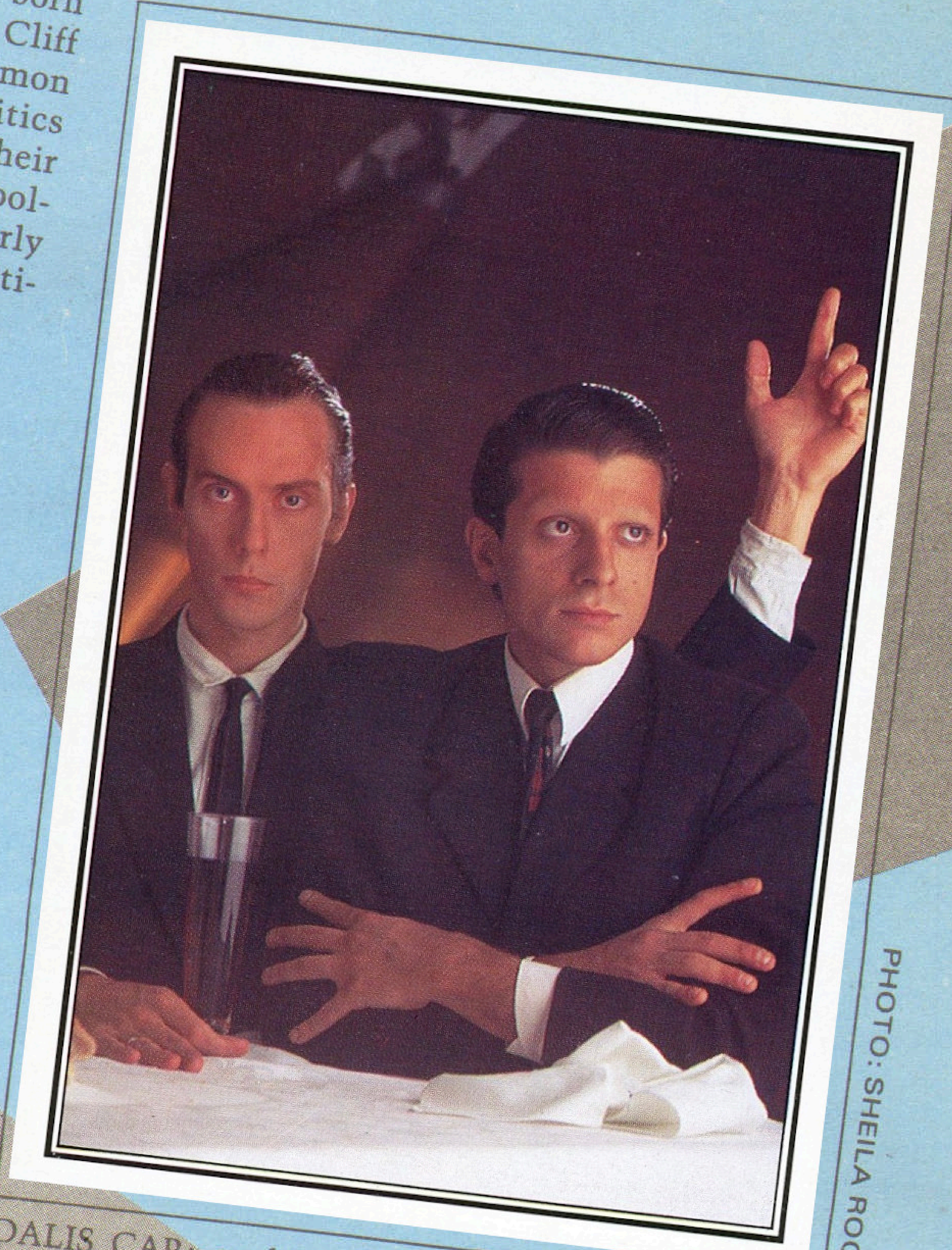


PHOTO: SHEILA ROCK

DALIS CAR: eyebrowless sculptor Mick Karn (ex-Japan) and Maxell Tape ad star Peter Murphy (ex-Bauhaus) met "by accident", communicate "by Ansaphone" and have described their relationship as being "like an affair". Named after a Surrealist work of art, they released their first LP "The Waking Hour" in Nov '84. "We still don't know what we can achieve," they admit.

## Bucks Fizz



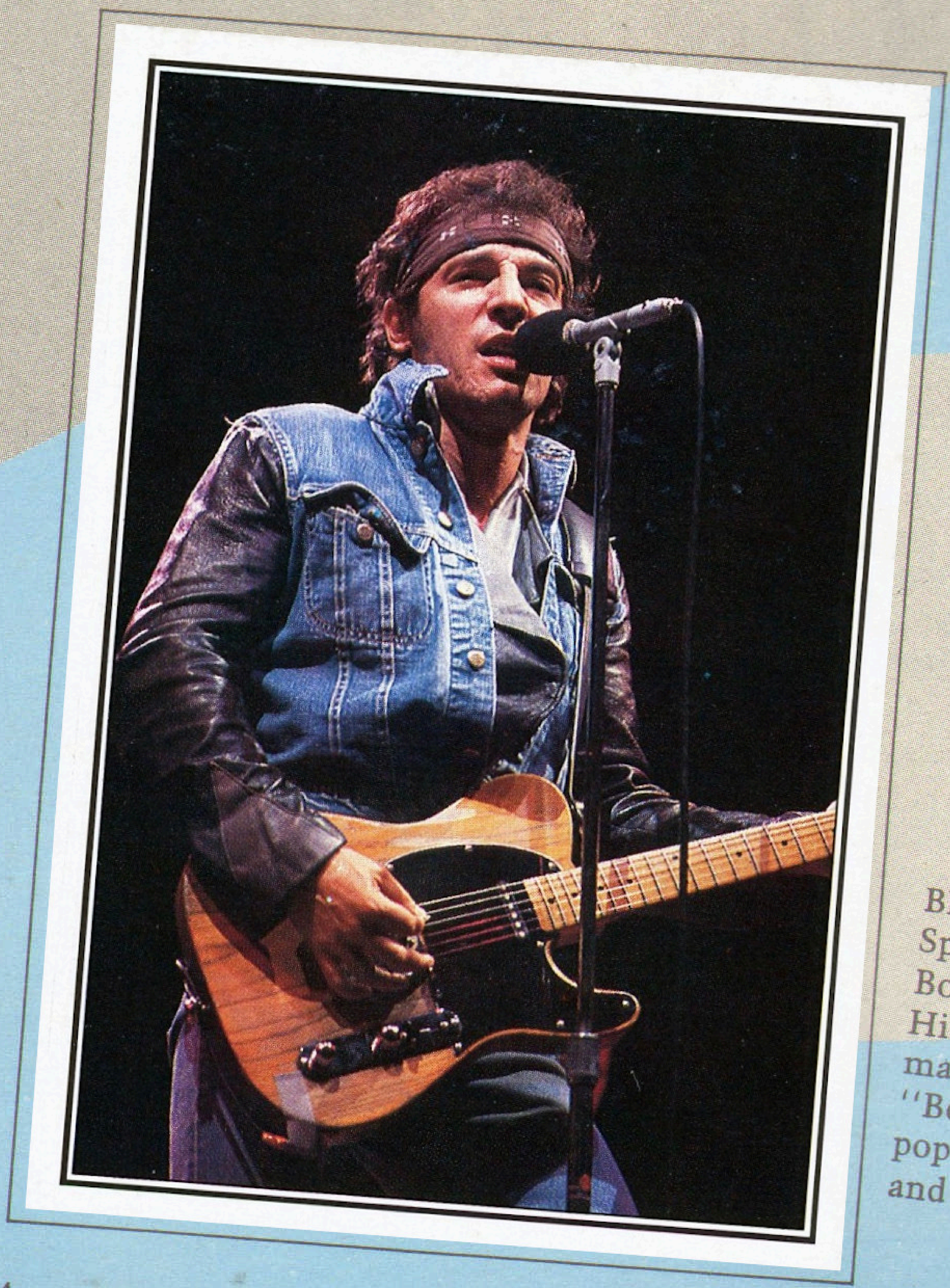
BUCKS FIZZ: formed from hopeful professional singers and dancers specifically for Eurovision Song Contest of 1981, which they won with "Making Your Mind Up" and dodgy skirt-ripping routine. Unusually, went on to have further hits in similar slick but anonymous vein under writer/producer Andy Hill. Fortunes faded in 1984 with group openly criticising poor material and direction, but survived horrific road accident.

## Wah!



WAH!: operating name of Liverpudlian buccaneer Pete Wylie (born 22/3/58) and chosen associates. Previously in legendary garage band Crucial Three with Ian McCulloch and Julian Cope. Lots of over the top name changes – Wah! Heat, Shambeko Say Wah!, Mighty Wah! – but same passionate intensity and biting sarcasm. Outrageously self confident, does occasionally make brilliant records like "Story Of The Blues".

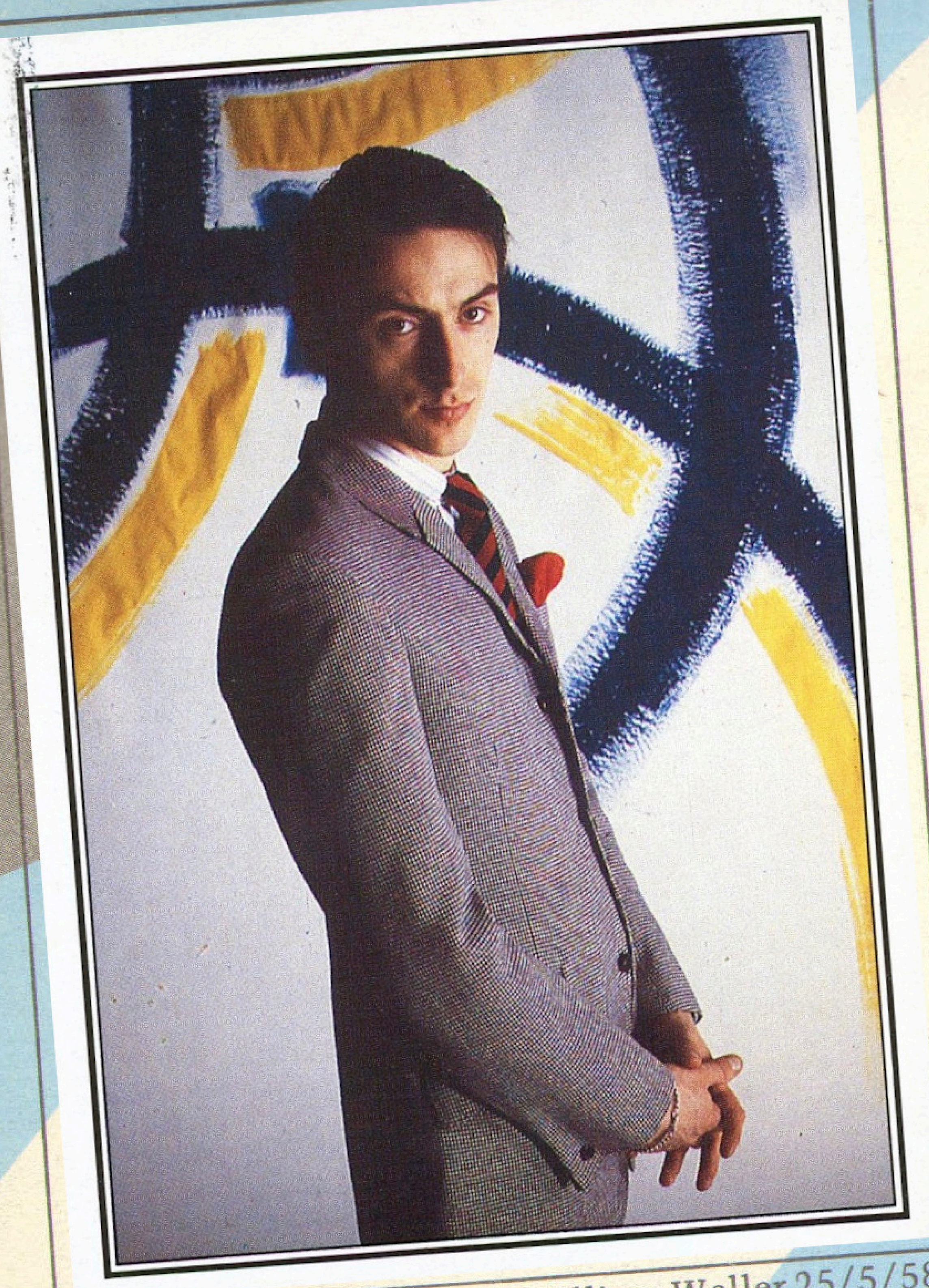
## Bruce Springsteen



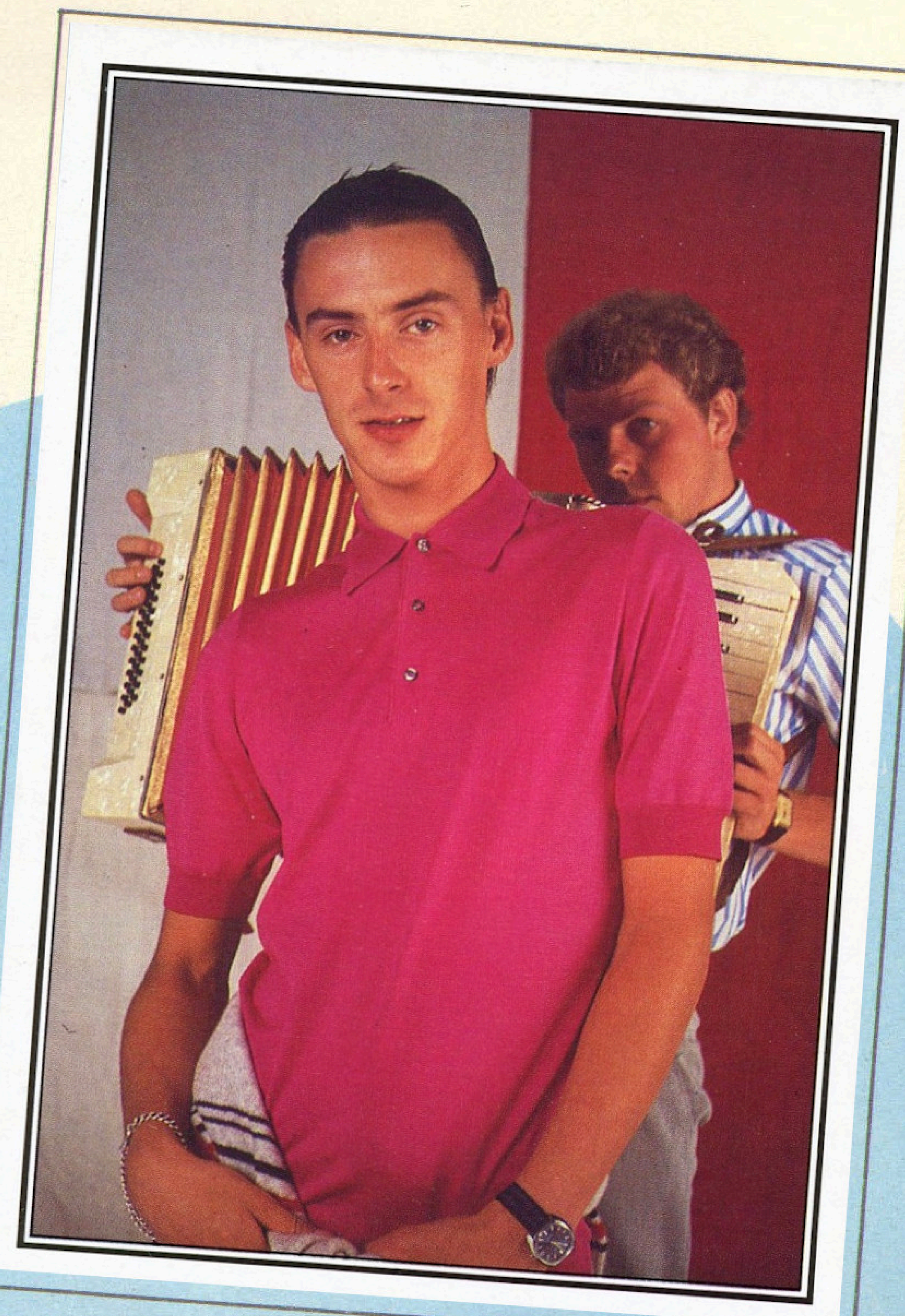
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: born Bruce Frederick Springsteen 23/9/49 in Freehold, New Jersey, USA. Bought first guitar after seeing Elvis Presley on TV. His street poetry about women, booze and cars have made him virtually American national hero since "Born To Run" LP. A rock'n'roller, but also a fine pop writer and lyricist, renowned for simple lifestyle and energetic live shows up to 4 hours long.

# Style Council

## Paul Weller



PAUL WELLER: born John William Weller 25/5/58 – family nicknamed him Paul. Formed The Jam at school, disbanding them at peak of their career after six years to reappear with Style Council, complete with new sunspecs and slicked back hair. With girlfriend Gill, runs Solid Bond Studios, Respond Records and Riot Stories publishing.



STYLE COUNCIL: formed by Paul Weller after disbanding The Jam to play more soulful music. Only other official member is Mick Talbot, previously in one-hit mod band The Merton Parkas and, briefly, Dexys' offshoot The Bureau. He'd previously added keyboards to Jam records and live concerts. Drummer Steve White is also believed to be a permanent fixture, and guest musicians have included D.C. Lee, Everything But The Girl and members of Orange Juice, JoBoxers, I Level and Animal Nightlife. Fiercely opposed to the rock establishment, Weller and associates have trodden a determinedly individual path; their first LP "Cafe Bleu" presents an unusually wide-ranging spread of jazz, pop, funk and soul. Live (at "Council Meetings" not "gigs"), however, many consider their classic pop singles aren't done justice to. Though no longer an angry young man, Weller is still politically committed, as demonstrated by the recent pro-miners single from spin-off band The Council Collective.

## Siouxsie



SIOUXSIE: born 27/5/57 in London. Writes the band's lyrics. Her personal life is a mystery, though she's been photographed in extremely risqué positions with Budgie, her partner in voice/percussion sideline The Creatures. Siouxsie, who likes chocolate cake, would like to be a make-up artist or a pathologist if she weren't a pop singer.

## Siouxsie And The Banshees



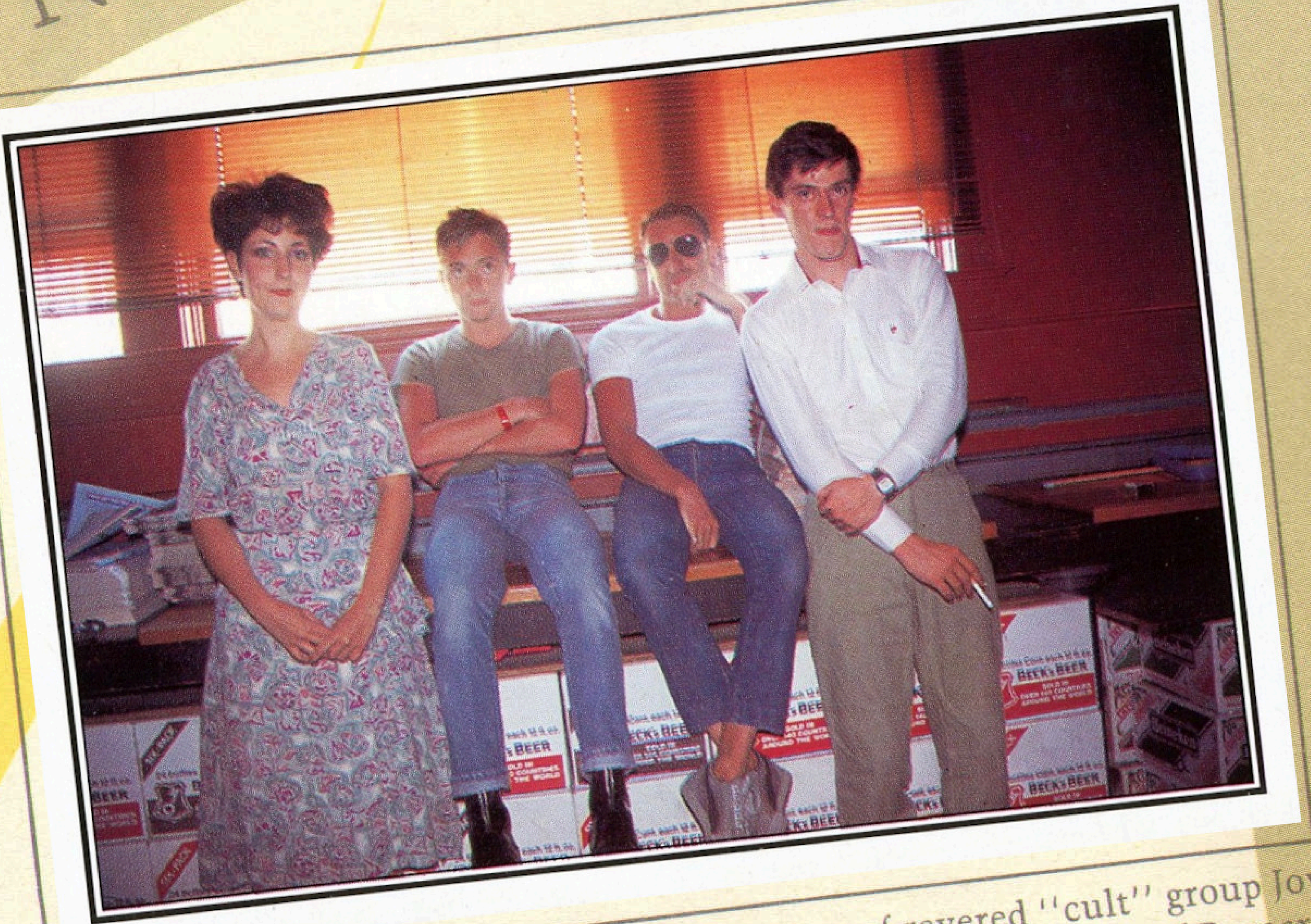
SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES: original line-up debuted 20/9/76 at the now legendary London 100 Club punk festival, where they played a chaotic 20 minute version of "The Lord's Prayer". Only constant members are Siouxsie and Steve Severin (bass). Originally Sid Vicious (later Sex Pistols bassist) played drums and Marco Pirroni (later Adam & The Ants) guitar. Kenny Morris and Kim Fenton took over for instantly successful first single "Hong Kong Garden". They left in mid-tour 1979, after which the Banshees became less punky, more melodic and psychedelic. Since then drummer has been Budgie – ex-Slits, Spitfire Boys (with Paul Rutherford) and Big In Japan (with Holly Johnson) – also in spin-off group The Creatures with Siouxsie. John McGeoch (ex-Magazine, now in The Armoury Show) played guitar for two years but succumbed to ill health. Replaced by "cuddly" Robert Smith, moonlighting from The Cure, but he too left to be replaced in turn by John Carruthers from Clock DVA. Dedicated nonconformists with immensely loyal following.



ASWAD: formed in 1975, the most consistently popular British reggae band ever, though have never had hit single. Many consider them at their best playing live. Recently stripped down to nucleus of Brinsley Forde, Tony Gadd, and Angus 'Drummie' Zeb – with each release their thoughtful, committed music becomes more commercial. Forde former child actor – *Double Deckers, Please Sir* etc.

## Aswad

## New Order



NEW ORDER: formed in 1980 out of the ashes of revered ''cult'' group Joy Division after the death of singer Ian Curtis, New Order consist of Bernard Sumner, Gillian Gilbert, Stephen Morris and Peter Hook. Believing their music should speak for itself, they've always been reluctant to do interviews, gaining a ''dark, inaccessible'' image which they're at pains to shrug off – ''a lot of what we do is tongue in cheek. We're just four normal, everyday human beings''. Their first LP ''Movement'' was released in 1981, followed in 1983 by the more relaxed ''Power, Corruption And Lies''. However their greatest commercial success has been ''Blue Monday'' (written, apparently, to test a new drum machine), the biggest-selling 12" single until ''Relax''. Although their fans tend to read a great deal into their music, New Order are more dismissive about it – ''The next song is just. . . the next song''.



SIMPLE MINDS: Jim Kerr and Charlie Burchill grew up together in Glasgow's Toryglen district. Split schoolboy punk band Johnny & The Self Abusers in 1978 to form Simple Minds with keyboard player Mick McNeill, bassist Derek Forbes and a succession of drummers ending with former session man Mel Gaynor.

After melodic but derivative first album ''Life In A Day'', dabbled with gloomy electronics before finding new inspiration in travel and dance music. Finally had hit in 1982 with ''Promised You A Miracle''. Subsequent works have shown even greater sophistication – American keyboard legend Herbie Hancock even guested on ''New Gold Dream''.

Meanwhile Jim Kerr reputedly overwhelmed by U2. Consequently Simple Minds' live shows have veered away from detached presentation to more energetic performances, even incorporating rock'n'roll call-and-answer routines. All part of Jim Kerr's ambition? ''I just want us to be the best band in the world.''

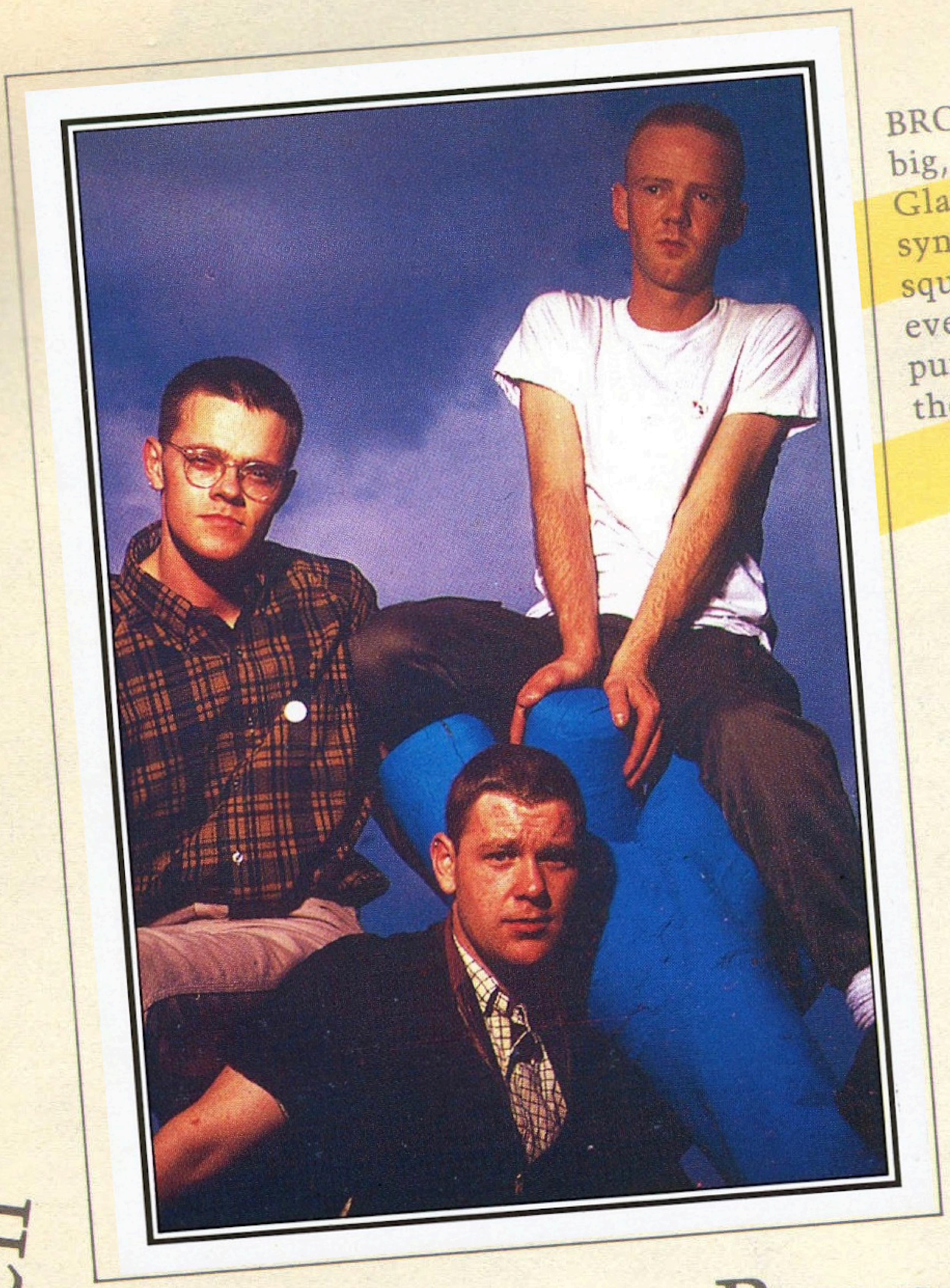
## Simple Minds

## Jim Kerr

JIM KERR: born 9/7/59 in Glasgow. One of very few in class to pass engineering exams but decided to opt for music instead. Band's lyricist and with Charlie Burchill creative core of Simple Minds – used to hitch round Europe together. Married Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders last year in New York after whirlwind romance. Charismatic, enigmatic – best described as ''a restless dreamer''.



PHOTO: STEVE RAPPORT



BRONSKI BEAT: Bronski Beat deal with "how the big, mad world is treating people like us". Glaswegians Jimi Somerville and Steve Bronski met synth wizard Larry Steinbachek in South London squat. After building following in local clubs and gay events, released melodic "Smalltown Boy"; Jimi's pure, haunting falsetto ensured instant success and they haven't looked back since.

# Scritti Politti



# Bronski Beat

# Malcolm McLaren



SCRITTI POLITTI: in other words, Green Gartside (born 22/6/56 in Cardiff). He's been through it all: angst-ridden independent politico-punk, serious pop, right through to black music and current status of hippest of hip-hop crop. Charming, eloquent, stylish and just a little bit pretentious, he wears his hair long and likes his chocolate white.

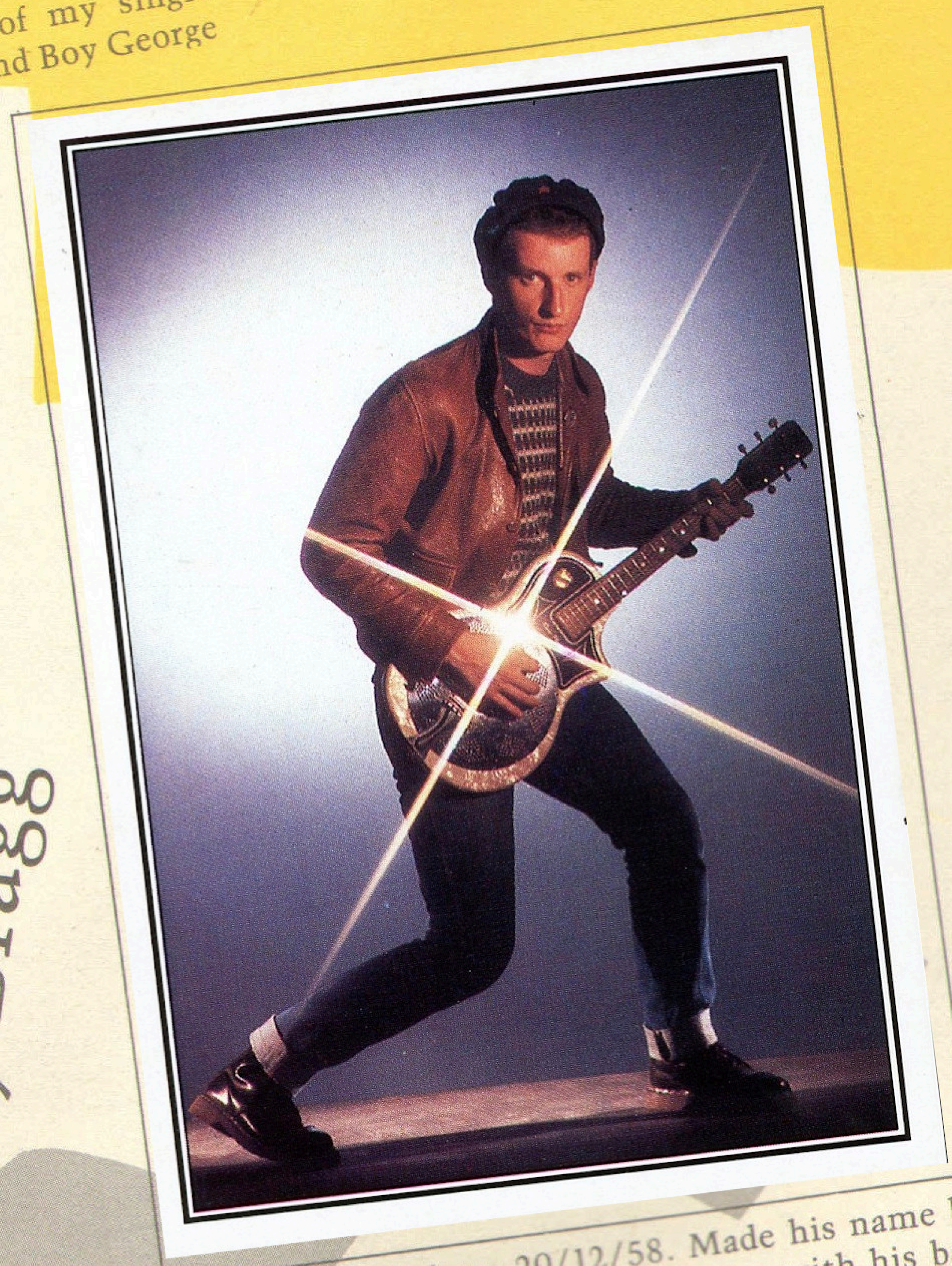
MALCOLM McLAREN: born 20/1/47. Veteran schemer and charming rogue, managed Sex Pistols and Bow Wow Wow before visiting New York to discover "scratching". Resulting own single "Buffalo Gals" first British hit of its kind. Recently turned to opera for inspiration. Knows value of publicity – recently claimed "because of my single ("Madam Butterfly"), Nik Kershaw and Boy George are going to have to try twice as hard."

CAPTAIN SENSIBLE: born Ray Burns 24/4/55. Guitarist with the original loony punk group The Damned. Had a huge 1982 hit with "Happy Talk" from old musical "South Pacific". Since then has concentrated mainly on solo career, writing with producer Tony Mansfield. When not being totally idiotic, the Captain is a keen supporter of CND and animal rights.

# Captain Sensible



# Billy Bragg



BILLY BRAGG: born 20/12/58. Made his name by slogging endlessly round the country with his battered guitar, playing punk-inspired mixture of love songs and social comment wherever they'd have him. Relentlessly independent, two hit albums ("Life's A Riot" and "Brewing Up With Billy Bragg") haven't changed his D.I.Y. approach to the pop world: "I do things on my own terms".

MICHAEL JACKSON: born 29/8/58. Began singing at eight years old with brothers as The Jackson Five. Last solo LP, "Thriller", now best selling LP of all time. Deeply religious recluse who fasts and identifies strongly with world of make-believe – "I love ET because he reminds me of me". Also known for dancing, lavish videos and wearing diamante studded glove on right hand only. Has also had nose job for some reason.



PHOTO: STEVE RAPPORT

U2: with their distinctive sound of driving drums, ringing guitar and passionate vocals, U2 were among the very first to breathe new life into the tired rock format.

The group were formed in Dublin in summer 1978 by drummer Larry Mullen whose advert on the school noticeboard recruited bassist Adam Clayton, guitarist The Edge (real name Dave Evans) and vocalist Bono. Even from the earliest days, they always gave 100% in an openly emotional attempt to reach out and touch people's emotions.

There has always been a strong spiritual intensity channelled into U2's songs – partly symbolic but now more openly about war and conflict – possibly since three of the four (Clayton excepted) are born-again Christians, though at pains to distance themselves from religious institutions and warily declining to try to explain their personal feelings.

After five increasingly sophisticated albums, constant world tours and spurning both tribalism and commercialism, they've been rewarded with legions of devoted fans everywhere.



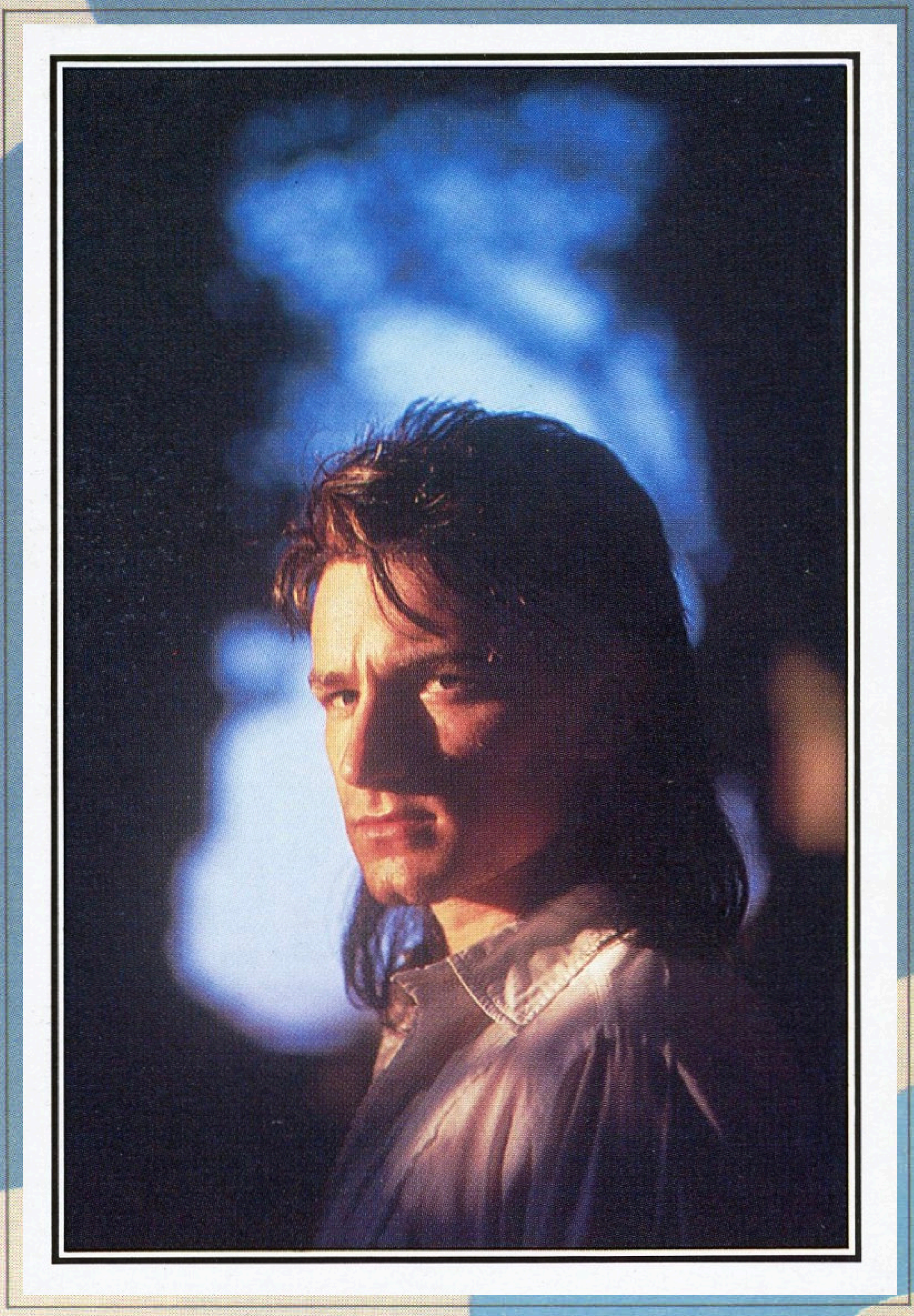
# U2

BONO: born Paul Hewson 10/5/60. Received name (as did The Edge) from childhood imaginary world Lipton Village. Wife Alison. Intense and concerned but diplomatic and not without humour. Reluctant focus for ego-less, militant pacifist band, was invited to join government committee on youth unemployment by Irish prime minister. "I don't know much about politics but I know a little about people."

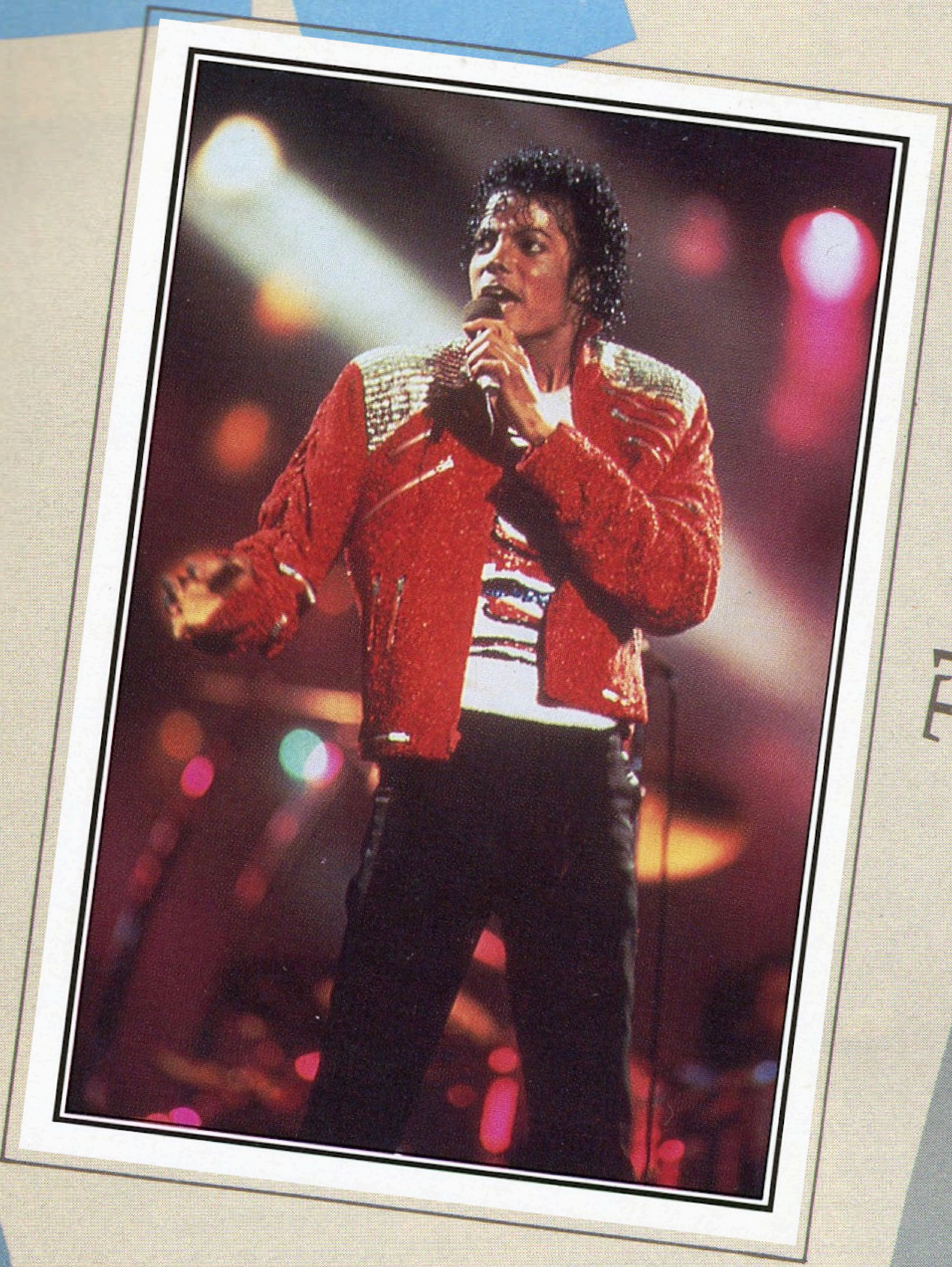


PHOTO: STEVE RAPPOT

# Bono



## Michael Jackson



## The Jacksons



THE JACKSONS: Jackie, Tito, Marlon, Jermaine, Michael and (later) Randy Jackson started out in Gary, Indiana, as singing and dancing child entertainers. Signed to Motown by Diana Ross to instant success. Matured musically, surviving teenybopper stardom and loss of Jermaine in label switch, but albums have been uneven despite massive status and lately have laboured in shadow of brilliant brother Michael.

## Marc Almond

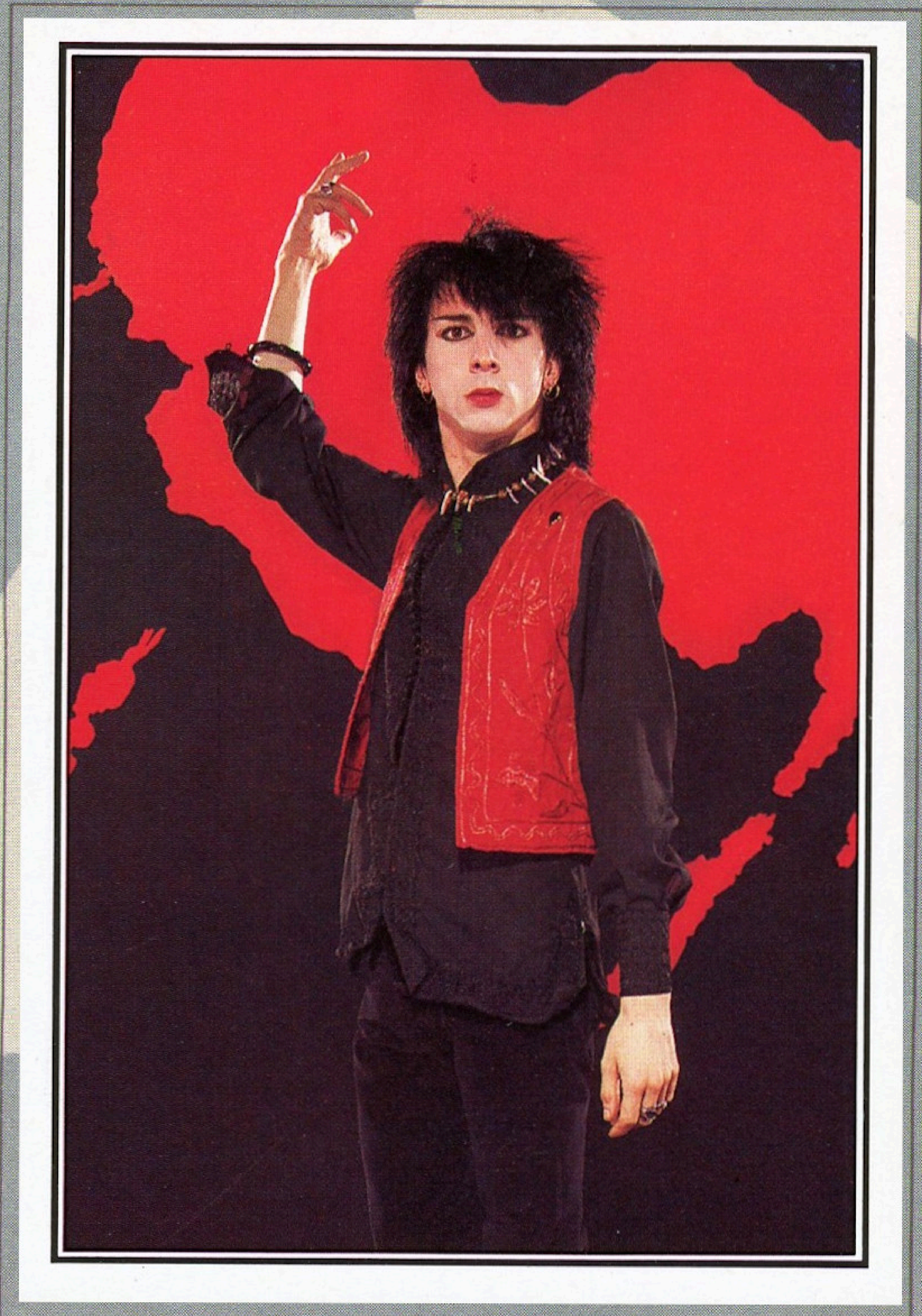
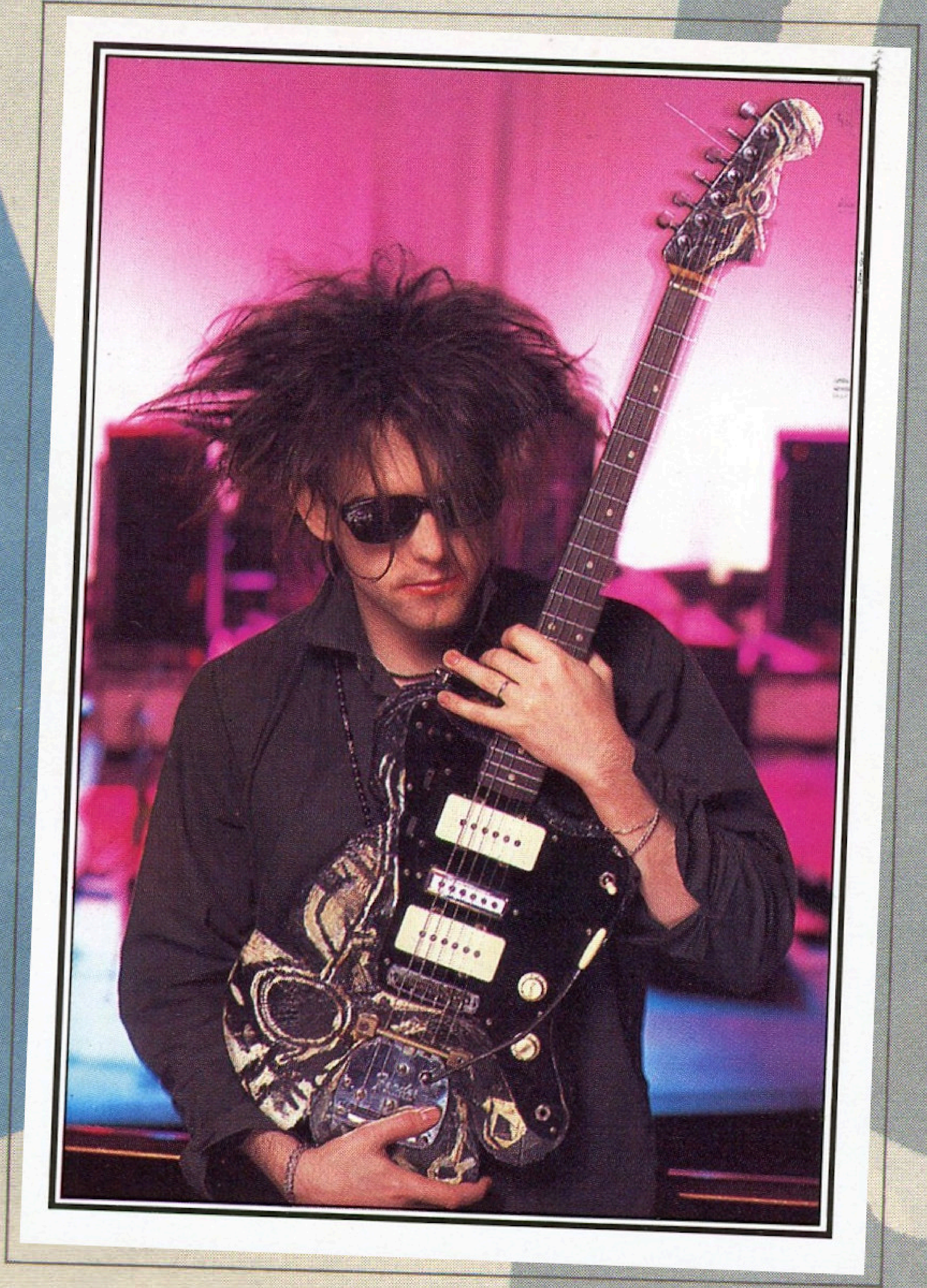


PHOTO: PETER ASHWORTH

MARC ALMOND: born 9/7/56. From smearing himself with cat food at Art School to keeping snakes in his Soho flat, has become symbol of decadence to black-clad generation of parent-haters. Once half of Soft Cell, now plays torridly emotional, Spanish-influenced melodramas with group The Mambas (also The Willing Sinners) to dedicated following and, while chart success eludes him, he's here to stay.

## The Cure



THE CURE: led by Robert Smith, with permanent drummer Lol Tolhurst. Formed in 1978, with Smith doubling as Banshees guitarist 1982-84. After steady series of increasingly doomy albums, underwent sudden mass popularity in 1984 with series of ''fantasy'' hit singles. Literary figure with deep interest in all things strange, Smith dresses up in sheets and pretends to be other people. Definite oddball.

## Sisters Of Mercy

SISTERS OF MERCY: ''Our band never really formed. It sort of grew like mould on a slice of bread.'' Dating back to Leeds in 1980, this independent crew of night creatures under the leadership of Andrew Eldritch racked up 15 best-selling indie releases of spooky, sleazy fire before taking their Merciful Release label (''total musical honesty and artistic control'') to a major. Ones to watch.





PHOTO: BEGGARS BANQUET

THE FALL: central figure Mark E. Smith ("I'm 39," he lies) formed band in Manchester in 1977. Endless albums of rough rambling music and sarcastic Northern banter established small but committed following for band. In latest of numerous line-up changes, Brix – Smith's American wife of two years – joined on guitar. Recent material mellower.

## The Fall

## Simon Le Bon



SIMON LE BON: born 27/10/58. Influenced by weirdo novelists like William Burroughs, is responsible for strange ideas in band's lyrics and videos. "I take video very seriously – I see it as an art form." Draws, writes and reads "anything from science fiction to Shakespeare". Has bought car that he can't drive. Duo side project with Nick Rhodes. No longer engaged to girlfriend Clare Stansfield.

## Slade



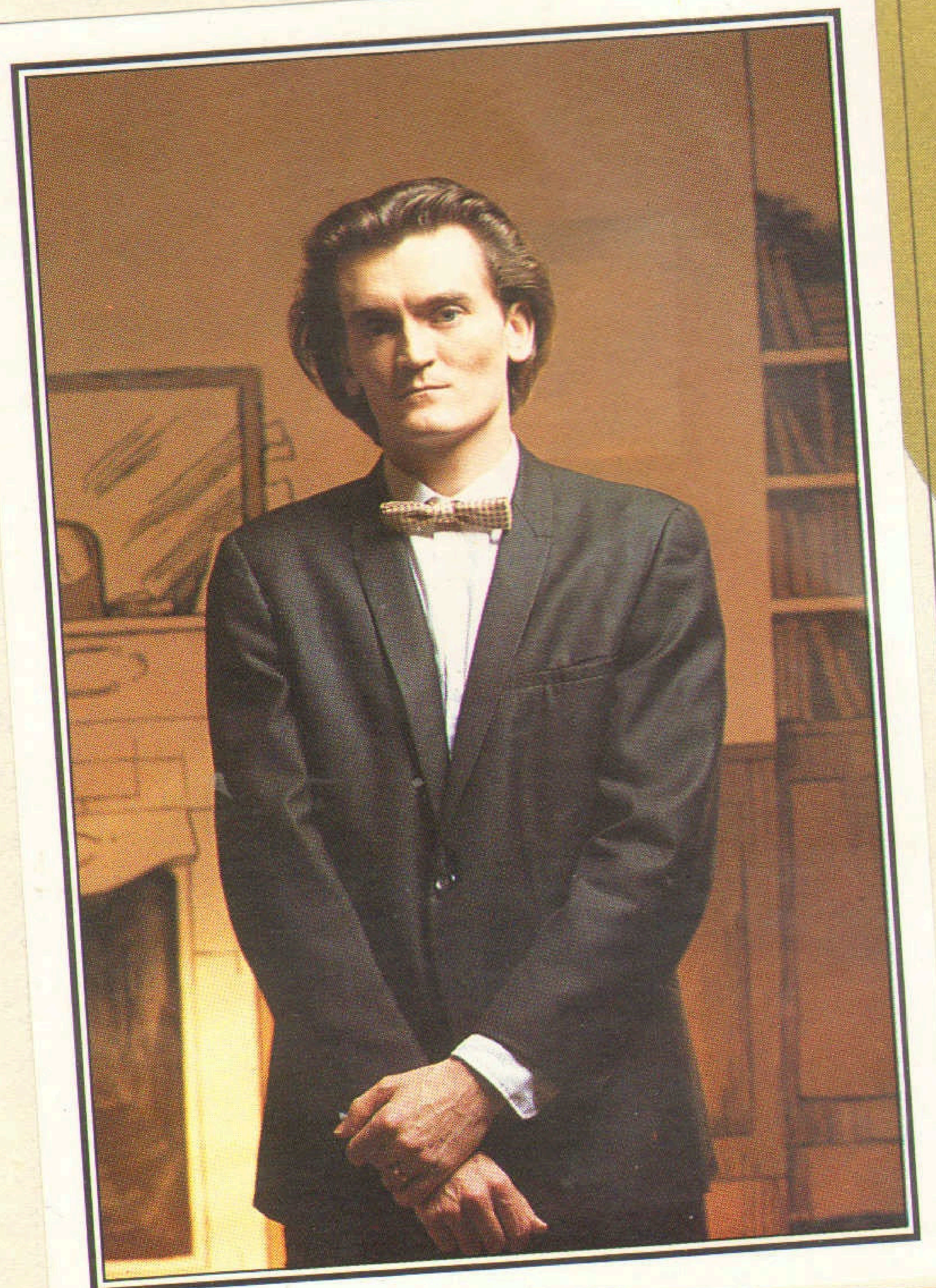
SLADE: glam-rock stars of the early '70s, had a string of hugely successful mis-spelled stompers (e.g. "Mama Weer All Crazee Now") Disappeared, apart from annual re-release of "Merry Xmas Everybody", but re-emerged in 1980 after Reading Rock Festival and have been there or thereabouts ever since. "We haven't changed," says Dave Hill. "Same approach. Same line-up. Same silly faces."

NICK RHODES: born Nicholas James Bates 8/6/62. Married model Julie Ann Friedman all in pink in London, August 1984. Reception guests included Sue Ellen from *Dallas*. Finally published book of abstract polaroids "Interference". "Art, happy people, strawberries and my cat Sebastian" are a few of his favourite things. Reckons "as a team and as a gang, Duran Duran are closer than ever before."

## Nick Rhodes



## Feargal Sharkey



FEARGAL SHARKEY: born 13/8/58 in Derry, Ireland. Won singing competitions his mum would enter him for as a child. From 1977 to 1983 tremulous-voiced frontman for raucous pop band The Undertones. After one-off hit "Never Never" with Vince Clarke as The Assembly, started his solo career with "Listen To Your Father", backed by Madness. Married to Ellen, with son Sean.



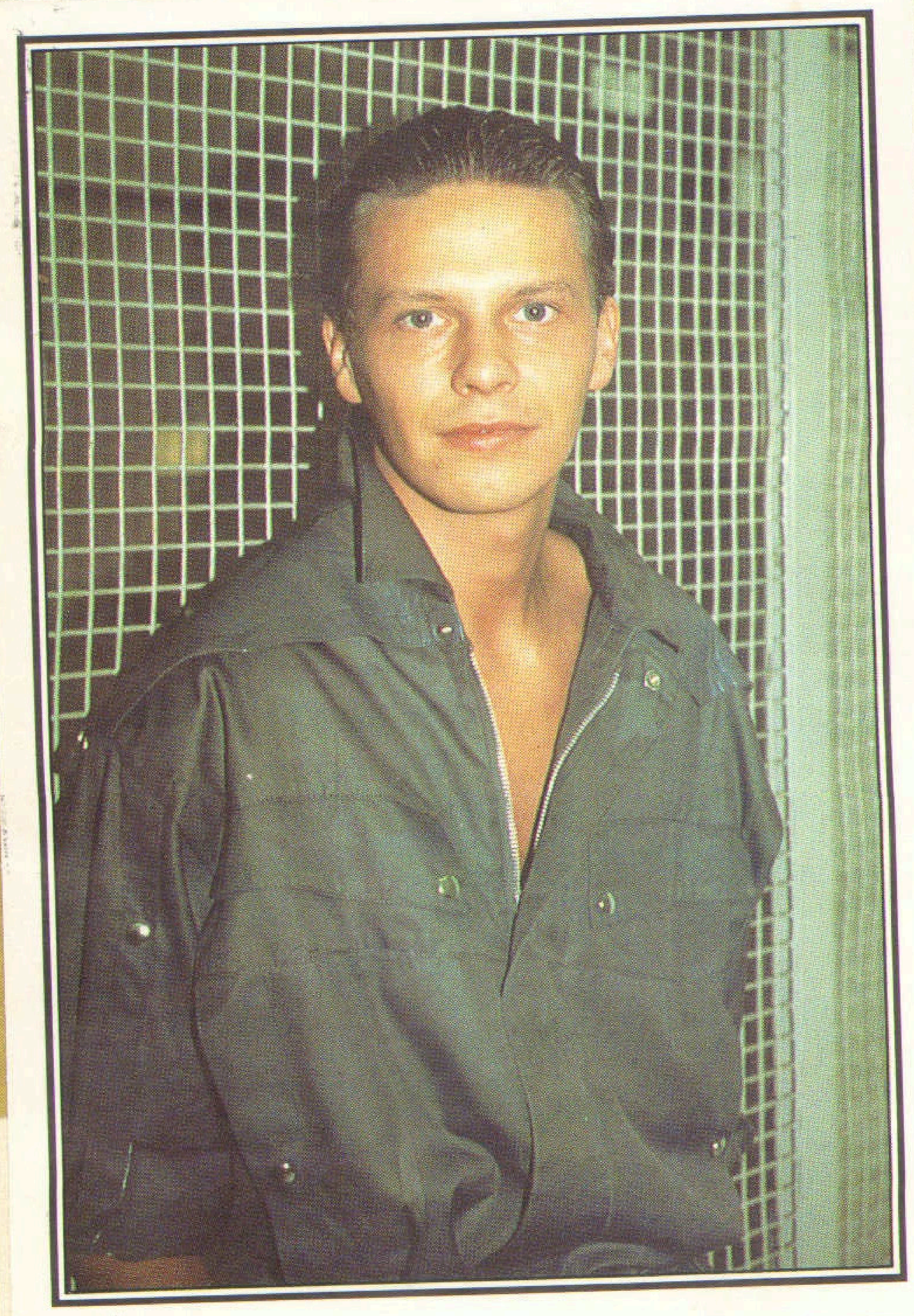


# Duran Duran

DURAN DURAN: Simon Le Bon once claimed that Duran Duran wanted "world domination by 1984". They nearly got it. Formed by John Taylor and Nick Rhodes in 1978, the group took their name from a character in the '60s spoof sci-fi film *Barbarella* and the current line-up came together by 1980. Sporting a nifty line in frilly shirts and lip gloss, they played regularly at Birmingham's New Romantic club The Rum Runner and released their first single "Planet Earth" in February 1981. They soon dumped their "futurist" image, however – "we looked like a bunch of tarts" – for a more suave, casual look. Helped by their collective chocolate box good looks, their popularity grew steadily.

They also worked very hard, despite jet-setting image. They released two albums ("Duran Duran" and "Rio"), got "heavily into" bizarre videos, toured the world and won rather a lot of polls. In March 1983 they had their first No.1 single with "Is There Something I Should Know?" and in August 1984 a world-wide smash with "The Reflex". It even made No.1 in America – "it's a fantastic ace banana for us," commented Simon at the time.

These days they're "past the stage of living from single to single" and are all involved in solo projects. "You have to have stopgaps," says John Taylor. "We have to slow down as a band or we'll burn ourselves out. I think we can go on for ever, but then again we could break up tomorrow."



## Andy Taylor

ANDY TAYLOR: born 16/2/62. Describes guitar playing (started at age 5) as "a hobby gone mad" – plays crazed guitar solos during rehearsals. Part of Powerhouse project with John Taylor, Bernard Thompson and Tony Thompson of Chic and Robert Palmer. Owns "Rio" restaurant in Whitley Bay. Cures for homesickness – "earning money and playing together". Wife Tracey and son Andrew.

## Roger Taylor

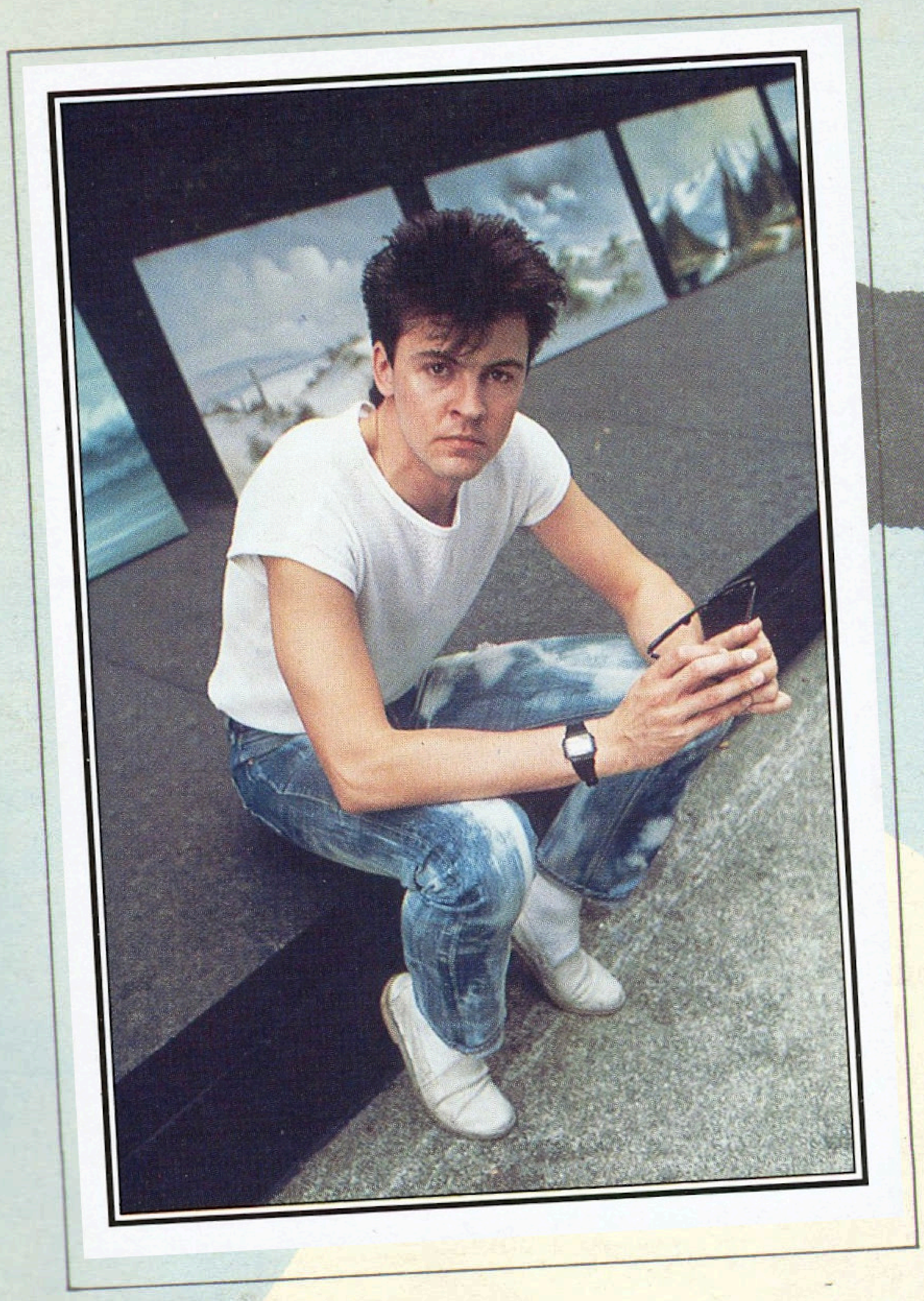
ROGER TAYLOR: born 26/4/60. Married former Rum Runner cloakroom girl Giovanna Cantone in Naples in July 1984. "It's a very trusting relationship." Reckons hobbies are "things you do only when you get bored"; likes watching TV in bed and always carries large selection of tapes. Has now bought house in London. "It's nice to go back to a nice cooked dinner when you've been on the road."



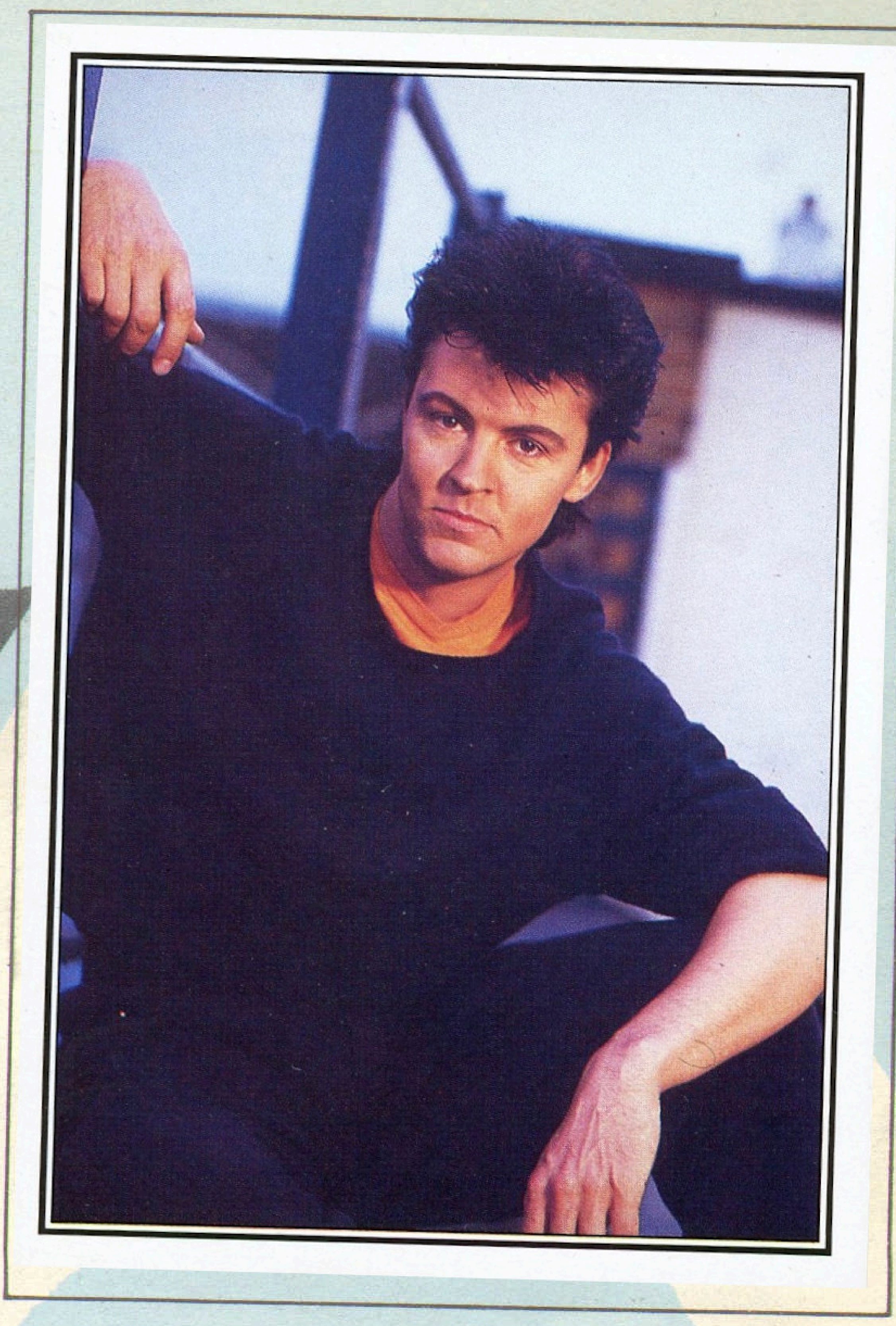
## John Taylor

JOHN TAYLOR: born 20/6/60. "Twelve months ago I thought the most important thing was to get photographed with a blonde on my arm arriving at Heathrow. Right now it's improving my knowledge and getting back to music." Is interested in cars and James Bond "to the point of obsession" – has just bought Bond-style gold Aston Martin. Also now owns New York apartment.





PAUL YOUNG: born 17/1/56 in Luton. Studied piano from age 7, guitar from age 10. Apprenticeship at Vauxhall Motors (where his Dad worked), while playing bass in Mosswreck (Led Zeppelin covers) and then Kool Kat (''much better, more r'n'b''). Left work to join Streetband as vocalist – a band killed off by the effect of their novelty hit, ''Toast''. Fronted anonymous soul band The Q-Tips (formerly The Harrow Horns), gained strong live following but disbanded due to lack of success on record. Played guitar in Tight Fit's backing band, then launched solo career. Struck lucky with third attempt, a powerful expressive rendition of Marvin Gaye's ''Wherever I Lay My Hat''. Dislikes the suave sophisticated image he's been landed with but is ambitious for his singing talents to be recognised worldwide. Lost his voice for few months last year, either due to nodules on throat or psychological block, but now fully recovered.

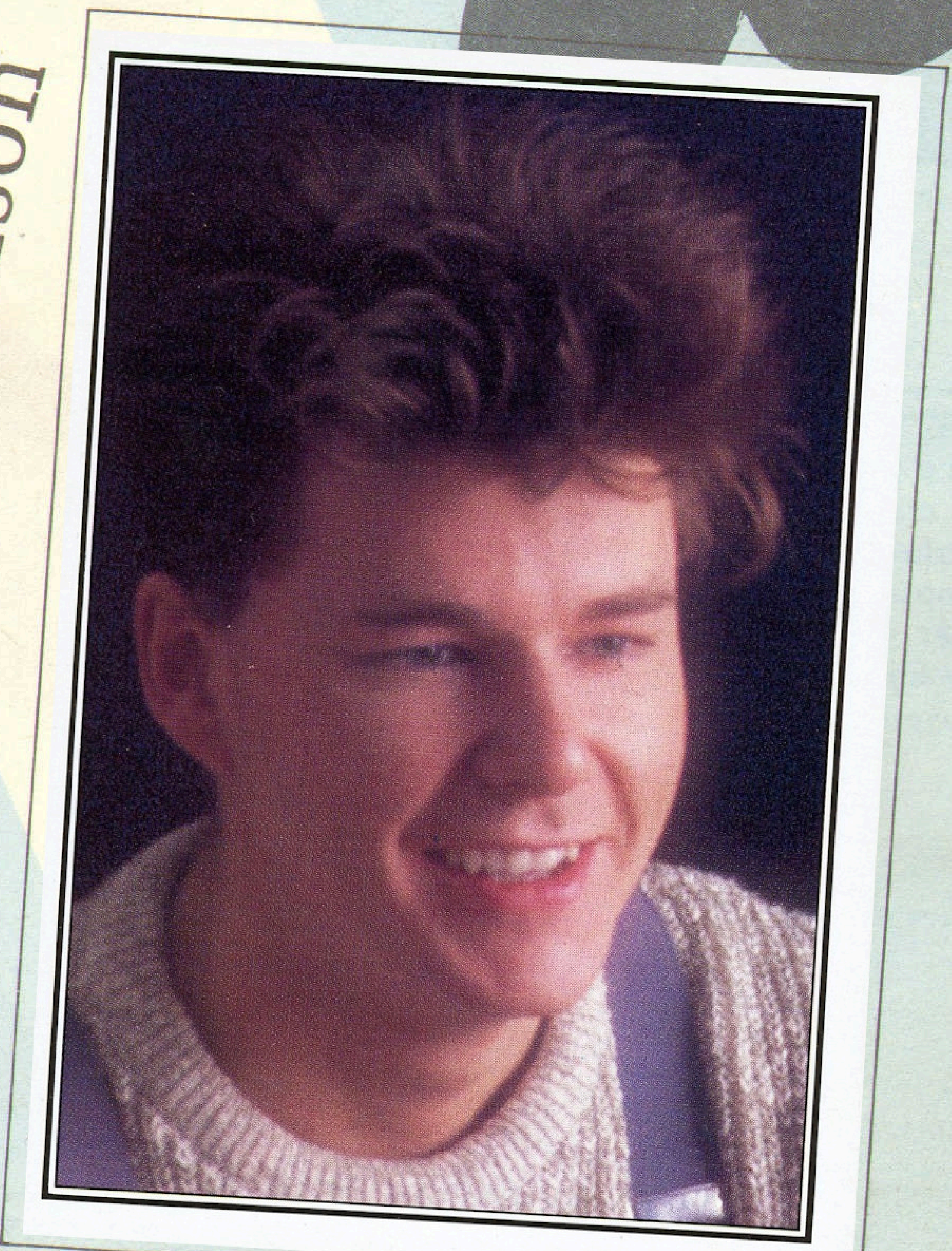


## Paul Young



BIG COUNTRY: When Stuart Adamson walked out of The Skids, his first recruit was guitarist Bruce Watson with whom he wrote songs on a tape recorder beneath a local snooker hall. Drummer Mark Brzezicki and bassist Tony Butler had been in On The Air who supported The Skids on their last tour but had given up on pop stardom for more lucrative careers as studio sessionmen. Hired to play on Big Country demos after the original rhythm section had left following a disastrous first tour with Alice Cooper, they were so impressed that they gave up secure jobs to join the band. From the beginning they've used a formula of driving melodic guitars to make vigorous, stirring music not dissimilar in spirit to U2. Recreating the old values of energetic live performances and basic emotional music, Big Country much prefer words like ''passion'' and ''integrity'' to ''style'' or ''image''. Instead, they claim, ''we can do all our promotion on stage.''

## Stuart Adamson



## Big Country



STUART ADAMSON: born 11/4/58 in Manchester but raised in Fife, Scotland. Creative core with Richard Jobson of The Skids but quit in Spring 1981. Responsible for Big Country's passionate idealism, and also for characteristic ''bagpipe'' guitar-playing, though hates it being mentioned. Devoted to wife Sandra and son Callum: phones home three times a day when on tour.

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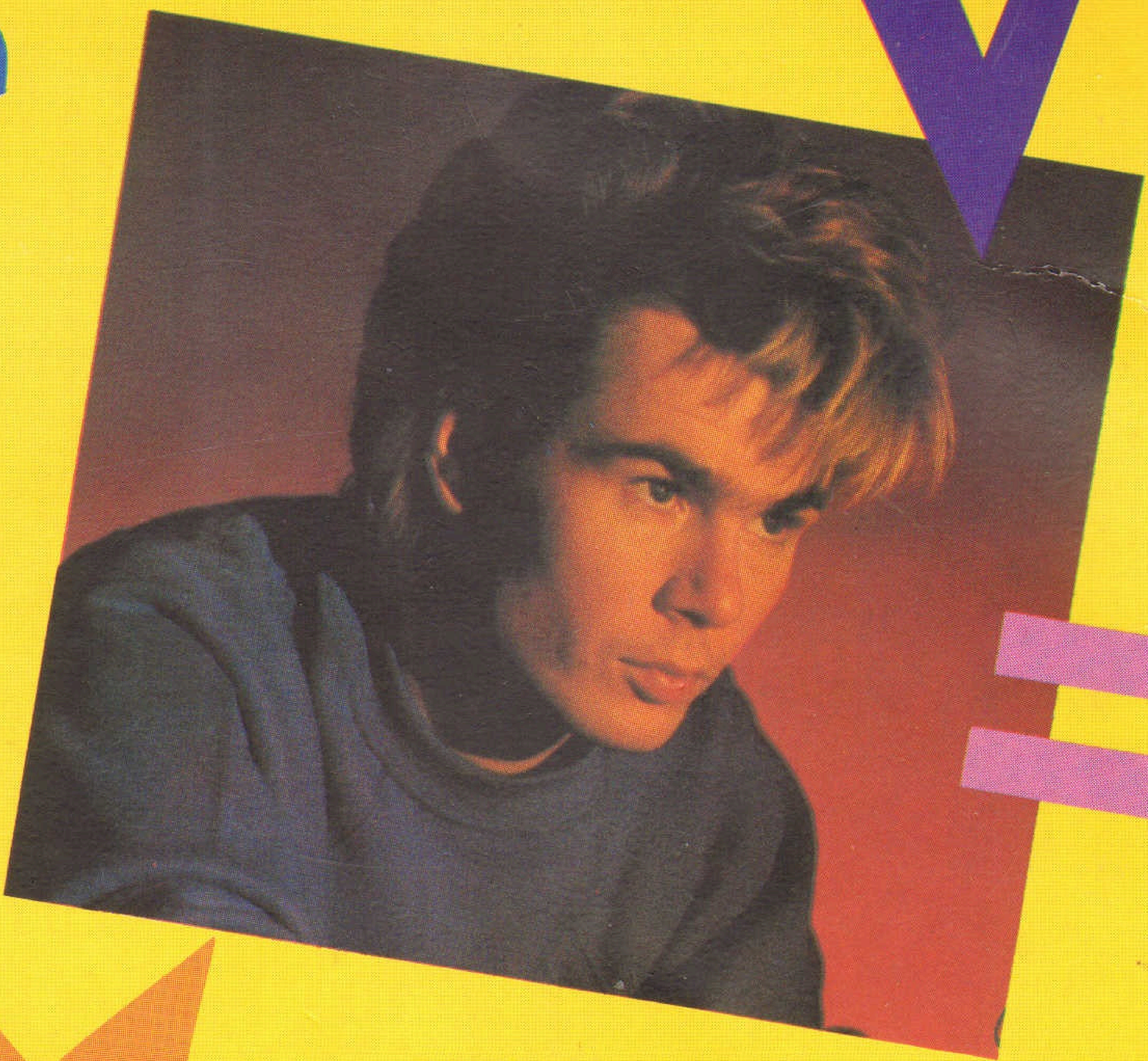
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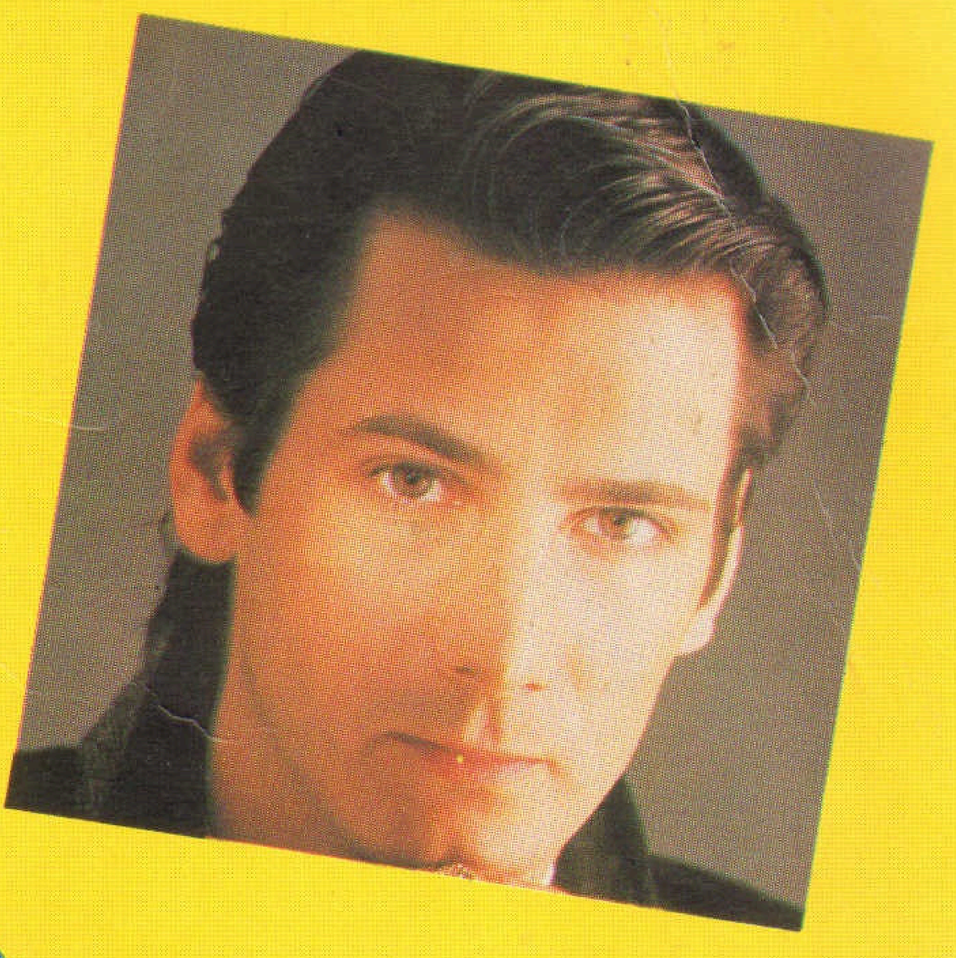
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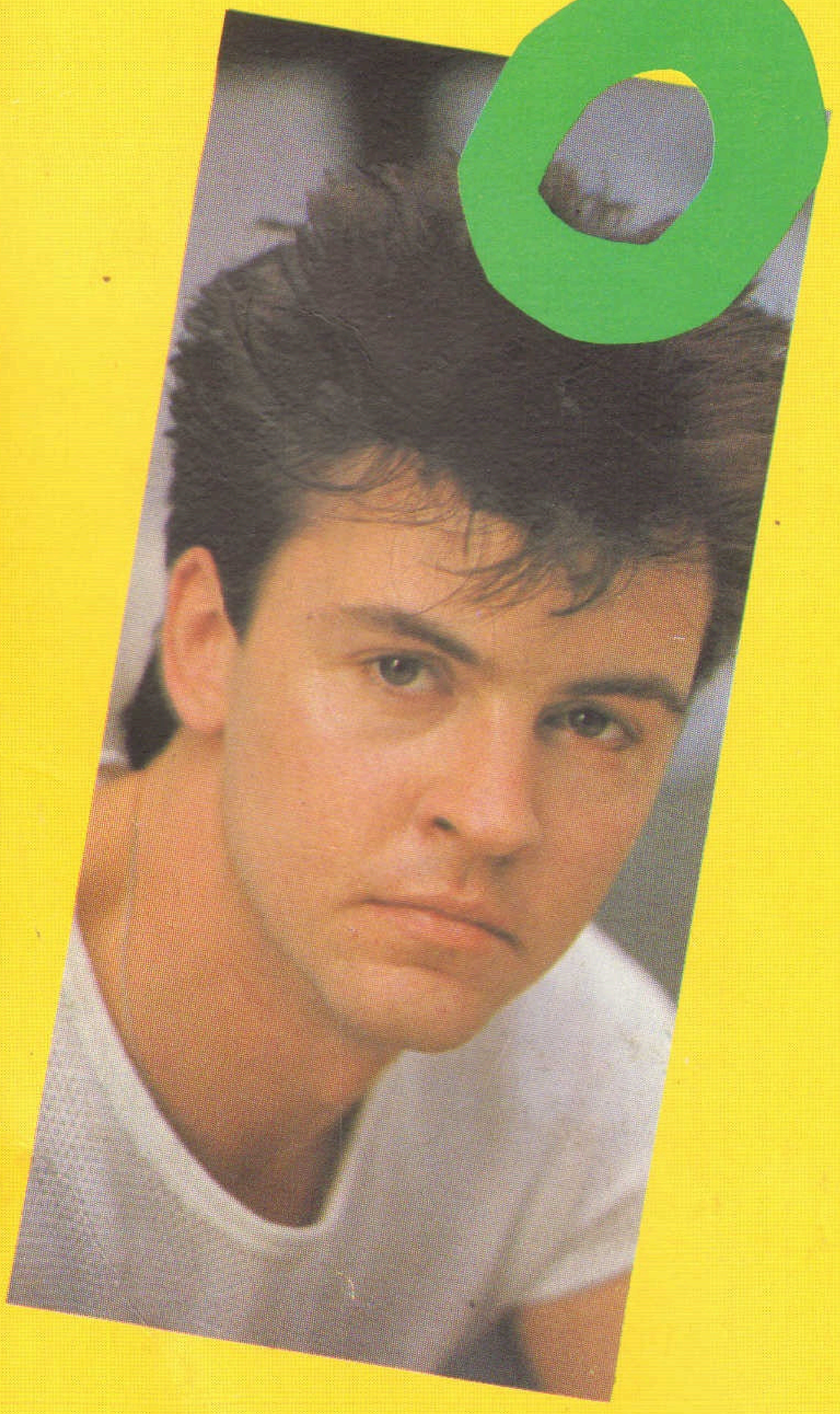














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